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COUNTY BOROUGH OF BIRKENHEAD

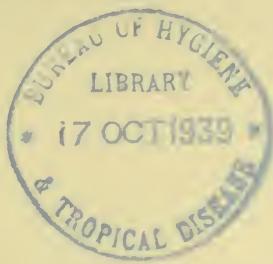


ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
FOR
1938

D. MORLEY MATHIESON, M.A., M.D.(Edin.), Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health;

Chief Medical Officer for the Municipal Tuberculosis, Mental Deficiency,
Maternity and Child Welfare, &c., Schemes, and for the School Medical Service
and Medical Adviser to the Public Assistance Committee.



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HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR OF BIRKENHEAD
(Alderman H. Deverill, J.P.)

CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES
(31/12/1938)

Education Committee	Councillor FURNESS
Finance Committee	Alderman PRENTICE, J.P.
Health Committee	Councillor VINES
Maternity & Child Welfare Committee	Coun. Mrs. GRANT
Mental Deficiency Committee	Councillor COPLAND
Public Assistance Committee	Alderman BAKER, J.P.
Water Committee	Alderman BOYD

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P R E F A C E

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population as at Mid-summer, 1938, is 144,400.

The live birth rate for 1938 was 17.0 per 1,000 as compared with 16.3 for 1936; and the death rate 12.1 per 1,000 as against 13.0 for 1937.

The infantile mortality rate was 75 per 1,000 births as compared with 77 in the previous year.

The cancer death rate showed a slight decrease, as against a small increase for England and Wales (P. 43). The death rate from tuberculosis was 79 per 100,000 as against 86 in 1937.

The work of the Municipal Hospital has steadily increased. 5,619 patients were admitted, as compared with 5,253 in 1937; and 1,380 major operations were performed, as compared with 1,075.

The number of patients admitted to the Infectious Diseases Hospital during the year showed a decrease of 206 as against that for 1937.

At Landican Cemetery 170 cremations took place, as compared with 125 in 1937.

The Consultative Committee of the Birkenhead Medical Society, consisting of representatives of general medical practitioners, consultants, and whole-time members of the Public Health Service, has met several times during the year and has done valuable work.

The organisation of medical Air Raid Precautions services has thrown an ever-increasing volume of work and responsibility on to the Public Health Department.

I have again to express my appreciation of the co-operation given by colleagues in other departments; of the unfailing loyalty and industry of members of my own staff; and of the encouragement and help given by the members of the various committees directly concerned with the administration of the public health services.

D.M.M.

SHORT STATISTICAL SUMMARY

1938

Area of the Borough	8,598 acres, or 13.4 square miles
Estimated population (at midsummer, 1938)	144,400
Number of persons per acre (density of population)	16.8
Approximate number of houses in Borough at end of 1938 ...	33,612
Number of inhabited houses at time of census, 1931	30,493
Number of families or separate occupiers at time of census, 1931	35,577
Rateable value, April, 1938	£1,001,447
Estimated product of penny rate, 1938-1939	£3,786
Birkenhead consolidated rate, 1938-39	14/- in the £
Birth-rate (live) per 1,000 of the population	17.0
Death-rate ,, ,, ,, ,,	12.1
Average death-rate for the last ten years	12.6
Tuberculosis death-rate per 1,000 of the population	0.79
Infantile mortality rate (per 1,000 birth)	75
Average number of children in elementary schools	20,025
Number of elementary school children medically inspected during year	8,097

ADMINISTRATION

General administrative arrangements.—The detailed arrangements made by the local authority for dealing with various branches of health work—e.g., maternity and child welfare, tuberculosis, etc.—are set out in the appropriate sections of this report.

Staff.—The staff engaged on the work of the department consisted at the end of 1938 of the following:—

Medical Officer of Health and Chief Administrative Medical Officer:

D. Morley Mathieson, M.A., M.D. (Edin.), Ch.B., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

F. G. Foster, M.A., M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officers :

Anna May Williams, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

J. Morrison Ritchie, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

E. Blackstock, B.Sc., M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

R. Sandilands, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Patricia I. Unsworth, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Archibald Dodd, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

*Phyllis Marsh, M.B., Ch.B.

Medical Staff, Birkenhead Municipal Hospital :

Ross A. Grant, F.R.C.S., M.B., Ch.B. (Medical Superintendent)

E. W. Thomas, F.R.C.S., M.B., Ch.B. (Deputy Medical Superintendent)

A. Gill, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Senior Resident Medical Officer)

A. L. McDonald, M.B., Ch.B.

M. Rassin, F.R.C.S., M.B., Ch.B.

J. W. Rae, M.B., Ch.B.

Consultants :

*R. W. Gemmell, M.D., Ch.B., D. P. H. (Radiologist)

*W. Johnson, M.D., F.R.C.P. (Physician)

*P. W. Leathart, B.A., M.B., B.Ch. (Aurist and Laryngologist)

*S. Barton Hall, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.M. (Psychiatrist)

*T. Hartley Martin, M.B., Ch.B. (Orthopaedic Surgeon)

*S. B. Herd, M.D., B.S., F.C.O.G. (Obstetrician and Gynaecologist)

*D. L. Charters, M.B., Ch.B., D.O.M.S. (Ophthalmic Surgeon)

Dental Surgeons :

P. Wilson Smith, L.D.S.

Eveline M. Warlow, L.D.S.

A. C. Capper, L.D.S.

M. Smith, L.D.S.

*L. W. Smith, L.D.S.

Bacteriologist and Pathologist :

Dr. J. Morrison Ritchie (Assistant Medical Officer)

Analyst :

*W. H. Roberts, M.Sc., F.I.C.

Matron, Birkenhead Municipal Hospital :

Miss J. Rhodes

Matron, Infectious Diseases Hospital :

Miss L. Liggins

Matron, Birkenhead Orthopædic Hospital :

Miss I. R. Millar

Health Nursing Staff :

Miss K. Nixon (Chief Health Nurse)
Health Nurses, 21

Medical Supervisor of Midwives :

Dr. P. I. Unsworth

Assistant Supervisor of Midwives :

Miss M. M. Graham (Health Nurse)

Inspection Staff :

N. M. Clayton, M.R.C.V.S., Veterinary Officer and Chief Meat Inspector
Alfred Longstaff (Chief Inspector and Inspector under the Food and Drugs Acts)
Housing, District, Meat, Food and Drugs, etc., Inspectors, 19

Clerical Staff :

W. M. Cavers (Chief Clerk)
Others, 32

Public Vaccinators :

*R. W. Laird Pearson, M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
*H. Cresswell Pierce, M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
*Ross A. Grant, F.R.C.S., M.B., Ch. B.

Vaccination Officers :

*O. R. Lockey
*E. W. Owens

Other Staff :

Nursing Staff, Birkenhead Municipal Hospital	140
Dispenser, Birkenhead Municipal Hospital	1
Masseuse, Birkenhead Municipal Hospital	1
School Teacher, Birkenhead Municipal Hospital	1
Domestic Staff, Birkenhead Municipal Hospital	76
Male Staff, Birkenhead Municipal Hospital	17
Nursing Staff, Infectious Diseases Hospital	31
Domestic Staff, Infectious Diseases Hospital	26

Male Staff, Infectious Diseases Hospital	7
Nursing Staff, Birkenhead Orthopaedic Hospital	7
School Teacher, Birkenhead Orthopaedic Hospital	1
Domestic Staff, Birkenhead Orthopaedic Hospital	9
Male Staff, Birkenhead Orthopaedic Hospital	1
Assistants on Meat Inspection Work	2
Laboratory Assistants	3
Male Orderly (Venereal Diseases Clinic)	1
Horne Teachers (Blind Persons)	2
Supervisor and Assistant Supervisor (Occupation Centre) ...	2
Dental Attendant	1

*Not whole-time officers.

SUPERANNUATION SCHEME

The Local Government and Other Officers Superannuation Act, 1922, was adopted by the Birkenhead Corporation in June, 1923, and came into operation on 1st August, 1923.

The number of posts in the Corporation service designated as "established posts" for the purposes of the Act was 1,906, of which 1,711 were actually filled at the date on which the Act came into force, and 195 were additional posts. Since the commencement of the scheme 1,013 new posts have been created, making a total of 2,919.

In preparation for the coming into operation of the Local Government Superannuation Act, 1937, on 1st April, 1939, 646 "servants" were submitted to medical examination before the end of 1938.

Medical examinations carried out during 1938.—During the past year 770 examinations were carried out.

Department	1922 Act	1937 Act
Audit	1	—
Assessments	1	—
Baths	—	6
Borough Engineer and Surveyor's	7	54
Borough Treasurer's	11	—
Cleansing	2	58
Education	5	—
Electricity	1	112
Estates	1	1
Gas	1	152
Libraries	2	5
Markets	1	—
Medical Officer's	32	68
Parks and Cemeteries	1	50
Public Assistance	23	19
Transport	33	110
Water	2	10
Weights and Measures	—	1
Totals	124	646

Note.—In addition there were 12 re-examinations.

POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND DEATHS

POPULATION

Population.—The population of the Borough, as recorded at the time of the 1931 census was 147,803.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population of the Borough as at mid-year, 1938, was 144,400. This figure is 1,100 less than the estimate at mid-year, 1937.

BIRTHS

Births registered during 1938, and birth rate.—During the year 2,464 live births belonging to the Borough were registered.

The live birth rate for 1938 was 17.0.

Birth rate in recent years.—The birth rates since 1931 are as follow:—

1931	18.4	per 1,000
1932	17.7	„
1933	16.4	„
1934	16.8	„
1935	17.0	„
1936	16.4	„
1937	16.3	„
1938	17.0	„

Still births.—In addition to live births, 109 still births belonging to Birkenhead were registered, in accordance with Section 7 of the Births and Deaths Registration Act, 1926. This is equivalent to a still birth rate of 0.75.

Comparison of birth rate with rates for country generally:—

	Per 1,000 of population	
	Live births	Still births
England and Wales	15.1	0.60
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)	15.0	0.65
148 smaller towns (estimated resident populations 25,000 to 50,000 at census, 1931)	15.4	0.60
London Administrative County	13.4	0.48
Birkenhead	17.0	0.75

Sex-distribution of births.—Of the 2,464 live births, 1,314 were males and 1,150 females; a proportion of 1,142 : 1,000.

Legitimacy.—Of the 2,464 live births registered 93 were illegitimate, a percentage of 3.8.

Registration of stillbirths.—The 109 stillbirths registered were classified as follows:—

Legitimate—	Males	60
	Females	42
Illegitimate—	Males	3
	Females	4
		—
		109

The stillbirth rate was 42 per 1,000 total births.

Births notified during 1938.—During the year, 2,878 births were *notified* in the Borough under Section 203 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Of these, 108 were stillbirths, leaving a total of 2,770 live births. This total includes births which occurred in the Birkenhead Maternity Hospital, the Birkenhead Municipal Hospital, and the Birkenhead General Hospital, many of which were transferable to other areas.

The following is an analysis of the above births:—

Births in Public Institutions:—

Birkenhead Maternity Hospital...	489	(20 stillbirths)
Birkenhead Municipal Hospital...	503	(24 , ,)
Birkenhead General Hospital	2	(1 , ,)
Births in Nursing Homes	178	(7 , ,)

Other births:—

Notified by doctors	28	(2 , ,)
Notified by midwives	1676	(54 , ,)
Notified by parents	2	(— , ,)

2878 108 stillbirths)

Un-notified births.—The Registrars reported 45 cases of un-notified births; 41 by both certified midwives and doctors and 4 by the Maternity Hospital staff.

DEATHS

Death-rate.—1,751 deaths occurred during the year; the total figure includes 102 deaths of Birkenhead residents which occurred outside the Borough, but excludes 271 deaths of non-residents which occurred in the area. This gives a death-rate of 12.1 per 1,000.

Standardised death-rate.—Though the above reflects the extent of death in Birkenhead it should not be used for the purpose of making comparisons with the position obtaining in other areas or in the country as a whole. The age and sex composition of compared areas must be taken into account before it is safe to make any deductions in regard to the influence exercised upon the degree of mortality by social, economic or other factors. All other things being equal, an area with an excessive number of old people will necessarily have a higher death-

rate than one in which younger people are relatively more preponderant. So also will an area with a greater proportion of males to females, since at almost all ages mortality is greater among the former.

It is therefore necessary to reduce age and sex distribution to a common level; that is, to adjust the distribution in a given area so as to make it comparable with the distribution in the whole country. In Birkenhead the difference from the average has the effect of making the death-rate more favourable than it would otherwise be. To make the rate properly comparable, therefore, it has to be multiplied by a factor representative of the proportion which the country's distribution bears to Birkenhead's distribution. This factor is 1.09; and the result of the adjustment is to raise the crude death-rate of 12.1 to 13.2. Comparison of the latter figure may be made with a similarly standardised rate for any other area, the influence of age and sex having in both cases been eliminated.

Deaths in recent years.—The death-rates since 1929 are as follows:

1929	13.9	per 1,000
1930	11.7	„
1931	13.4	„
1932	11.6	„
1933	13.5	„
1934	12.0	„
1935	12.5	„
1936	12.6	„
1937	13.0	„
1938	12.1	„

Seasonal deaths.—The following table gives the deaths for each quarter of the years 1937 and 1938:—

	No. of deaths	
	1937	1938
First quarter.....	679	494
Second quarter.....	442	420
Third quarter.....	333	370
Fourth quarter.....	438	467
Totals	1892	1751

Sex-distribution of deaths.—Of the total deaths, 951 were males and 800 females, a proportion of 1,189 : 1,000.

Uncertified deaths.—In 1938 there was 1 uncertified death belonging to the area.

Coroners' inquests.—Coroners' inquests were held regarding 99 deaths—that is, in 5.6 per cent. of the total deaths during the year.

The Coroners' (Amendment) Act, 1926.—This Act came into force on 1st May, 1927. During the year 41 deaths (2.3 per cent. of the total deaths during the year) were registered without the Coroner holding an inquest.

Causes of death.—Detailed causes of death during 1938 compiled in this department are not published in this report. Table P. 1 (pages 6 and 7), prepared by the Registrar-General, shows the causes of death of Birkenhead residents, sub-classified according to sex and age.

Infantile mortality.—There were 186 deaths of infants under 1 year old. This corresponds to an infantile mortality rate of 75 per 1,000 births.

There were 6 deaths in illegitimate infants under 1 year old; giving an illegitimate mortality rate of 75 per 1,000. The causes of infant deaths and the ages at which death occurred are shown in Table P 2 (page 8).

The infant mortality rates for each year since 1928 are given below:

1928	80
1929	86
1930	86
1931	86
1932	71
1933	99
1934	60
1935	67
1936	63
1937	77
1938	75

The main causes of infant deaths during the past two years are shown below:—

	No. in 1937	No. in 1938
(a) Pneumonia (all forms)	36	39
Bronchitis	7	5
Whooping cough	5	8
Measles	—	9
Diarrhoea and enteritis	23	29
(b) Premature birth	55	39
(c) All other causes	58	57
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	184	186
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Deaths from tuberculosis.—Tuberculosis was responsible for 6.5 per cent. of all the deaths recorded in the Borough in 1938. The deaths from the disease were as follows:—

Deaths from tuberculosis of the lungs	98
Deaths from other forms of tuberculosis	17
	<hr/>
	115
	<hr/>

This gives a tuberculosis death-rate of 0.79 per 1,000 of the population.

Of the 98 deaths from respiratory tuberculosis during 1938, 90 occurred in persons between 15 and 65 years old—that is, of a wage-earning age.

This subject is further dealt with in the Tuberculosis section of this report.

Deaths from certain epidemic diseases.—The seven "principal epidemic diseases" caused 98 deaths, as follows:—

Diarrhoea and enteritis (under 2 years)	30
Whooping cough	26
Measles	29
Scarlet fever	1
Diphtheria (including membranous croup)	11
Fever (enteric, typhus, and simple continued) ...	1
Smallpox	—

This corresponds to a death-rate from all these diseases of 0.67 per 1,000 of the population.

Deaths from other notifiable infectious diseases.—Pneumonia caused, in its various forms, 132 deaths; erysipelas, 1; cerebro-spinal fever, 5; poliomyelitis, —; encephalitis lethargica, —.

Comparison of Birkenhead death-rates with those for country generally.—In Table P 3 (page 9), Birkenhead rates are shown together with those for the country generally. The latter are provisional figures kindly supplied by the Registrar-General. Non-civilians are included in the figures for England and Wales, but not for other areas.

TABLE P 1
Deaths : causes, sex, and ages (as compiled by the Registrar-General)

TABLE P 2

Infant deaths : causes and ages

Causes of death					Total under 4 weeks					Total under 1 year
	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks		Over 4 weeks & under 3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	
All causes.....	49	8	8	6	71	24	44	25	22	186
Smallpox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chickenpox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	6	9
Scarlet fever.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping cough .....	..	..	..	1	1	..	4	2	1	8
Diphtheria .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Influenza .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuberculosis of central nervous system .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Tuberculosis of intestines and peritoneum .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Meningitis (not tuberculous) .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	2
Convulsions .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bronchitis (all forms).....	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	5
Pneumonia (all forms) .....	..	..	3	1	4	7	12	9	7	39
Diarrhoea and enteritis .....	..	1	..	1	2	7	10	5	5	29
Gastritis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Syphilis .....	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Rickets .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Injury at birth	1	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	2
Atelectasis	5	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	5
Congenital malformations.....	5	2	2	1	10	2	4	..	..	16
Premature birth	29	4	3	1	37	2	..	..	..	39
Atrophy, debility and marasmus	2	..	..	1	3	3	1	1	..	8
Other causes	7	..	..	..	7	2	3	6	3	21
 Totals..	49	8	8	6	71	24	44	25	22	186

Nett live births in the year—

Legitimate	2464
Illegitimate	109

Nett deaths in the year—

Legitimate infants	180
Illegitimate infants ...	6

TABLE P 3

Death-rates : comparison with rest of country

	Annual death rate per 1000 civilian population						
	All causes	Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers	Smallpox	Measles	Scarlet fever	Whooping cough	Influenza
England and Wales	11.6	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.01	0.03	0.07
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London (census population exceeding 20,000)	11.7	0.00	—	0.05	0.01	0.03	0.07
148 Smaller Towns (estimated resident populations 25,000 to 50,000 at Census 1931)	11.0	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.06
London Administrative County	11.4	0.00	—	0.06	0.01	0.03	0.05
Birkenhead	12.1	0.00	—	0.20	0.00	0.18	0.07
Total deaths under 1 year							5.5
Total deaths under 2 years							53
Rate per 1000 live births							7.8

WATER SUPPLY, FOOD, AND DRUGS

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

At the end of the year the permanent staff engaged on meat inspection consisted, in addition to the Veterinary Officer (Mr. N. M. Clayton), of one meat inspector, five assistant inspectors, two detention officers, and one junior clerk.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Alfred Longstaff, was responsible throughout the year for the taking of all samples of milk and other food stuffs, and of drugs, for chemical and bacteriological examination. A special Food and Drugs Inspector also devotes the greater part of his time to this work.

The chemical analysis of samples has been carried out, under a temporary arrangement, by Mr. W. H. Roberts, M.Sc., F.I.C., City Analyst, Liverpool.

The bacteriological examination of samples has been dealt with in the Municipal Laboratory.

WATER SUPPLY

With the exception of Prenton Ward and part of Upton Ward, all the Borough is supplied with water from the Corporation Waterworks at Alwen. The supply for the remaining area comes from the West Cheshire Water Board.

The consumption of water in Birkenhead from the Alwen supply during the year ending 31st December, 1938, was 1,401,544,000 gallons.

Bacteriological examinations.—The bacteriological examination of the Alwen water supply is carried out in the laboratory in the Department.

During the past year, bacteriological examinations have been made in connection with:—

51 samples of tap water in Birkenhead.

13 samples of water from the Alwen Reservoir, before filtration.

27 samples of water at Alwen, after passing through the filtration apparatus.

The latter tests provide a very useful and sensitive check on the efficacy of the filtration process.

MILK SUPPLY

Dairy Farms.—Milk is supplied to the Borough chiefly from farms in Cheshire, Shropshire, Denbighshire and Flintshire.

(a) **Farms, etc., outside the Borough.**—209 samples of milk from these farms were taken in the Borough by the Veterinary Officer and submitted for biological examination at the Municipal Laboratory. 29 of these (approximately 14%) were found to contain living tubercle bacilli. Under the provisions of the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, the Veterinary Officer paid 30 visits to milk producers' farms

outside the Borough and inspected the herds responsible for these infected samples, 917 cows being examined. As a result 15 cows were discovered to be giving tuberculous milk: the animals were slaughtered in accordance with the provisions of the Tuberculosis Order, 1938. In those cases where no affected cow was found on examination of the herd, it was learned that the animals which were probably the source of infection had been killed, or sold from the herd.

(b) **Farms, etc., within the Borough.**—Up till May, quarterly examinations of all dairy cows in the Borough were carried out by the Veterinary Officer. At that time there were 20 farms within the boundaries of the Borough with a total of 450 dairy cows.

Up till May, 40 visits were paid to these farms and 900 clinical examinations of these dairy cows were made.

Four samples of milk from cows showing induration of the udder were taken by the Veterinary Officer. In each case the samples showed the presence of tubercle bacilli and the affected cows were slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938. 5 cows affected with tuberculosis in other forms than tuberculosis of the udder were also slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order.

After May, the work of clinical examination of dairy cows was taken over by the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, except for the quarterly inspection of "Accredited Herds."

Milkshops and the retail sale of Milk.—There are 125 registered milkshops in Birkenhead. In addition, the following are registered for retailing milk within the Borough—89 farmers resident outside Birkenhead, 9 " purveyors " of milk, and the owners of the 22 cowsheds within the Borough referred to in the preceding paragraph.

Applications for registration.—During the year applications for registration—Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922—have been received from 2 persons desiring to retail milk within the Borough. These persons have been placed on the register.

Sale of " Graded " milk.—Under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, the following licences were granted:—

14 licences to persons other than producers to retail *Tuberculin Tested milk* within the Borough.

2 licences to bottle and sell *Tuberculin Tested milk*.

6 licences to produce *Accredited milk*.

6 licences to bottle and sell *Accredited milk*.

2 licences to sell *Accredited milk*.

1 supplementary licence to sell *Tuberculin Tested milk*.

16 licences to sell *Pasteurised milk*.

1 licence to *Pasteurise milk*.

The chemical and physical examination of milk.—During the year 250 samples of milk were taken for chemical analysis.

The bacteriological examination of milk.—215 samples of milk were examined in the Municipal Laboratory during the year. 167 of these samples were satisfactory and 48 were not satisfactory.

Suitable action was taken with regard to the unsatisfactory samples.

OTHER FOOD : DRUGS

Abattoirs in Birkenhead.—Slaughtering is carried out in

- (a) the Corporation abattoir at Tranmere;
- (b) the slaughterhouse within the Woodside Lairages; and
- (c) the slaughterhouse at the Wallasey Stage and Wallasey Nos. 4 and 5 sheds, which are situated within the Borough of Birkenhead, and which are used for animals which have to be killed immediately on landing.

Meat inspection at the abattoir and slaughterhouses.—During the year a total of 134,152 animals (see the following table) was slaughtered within the Borough. This was an increase of 25,681 over 1937, due to the revival of the importation of Canadian cattle and a much greater number of home-fed sheep being killed at the Tranmere abattoir.

TABLE F 1
Animals killed in Birkenhead during 1938

	Oxen	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
At Woodside Lairages—					
Irish ...	27690	—	61126	202	89018
Canadian ...	6866	—	—	—	6866
Manx ...	—	—	127	—	127
At Wallasey Stage and Nos. 4 and 5 Sheds—					
Irish ...	98	—	653	90	841
Canadian ...	—	—	—	—	—
Manx ...	—	—	—	—	—
At Tranmere Abattoir—					
Irish ...	—	—	—	—	—
Canadian ...	—	—	—	—	—
Home-fed ...	550	927	29228	6595	37300
Totals	35204	927	91134	6887	134152

All meat condemned by the meat inspection staff as unfit for human consumption was surrendered by the owners for destruction. In no case was formal seizure found to be necessary. The following is a summary of surrenders during the year:—

	Oxen	Calves	Pigs	Sheep	Total	Weight (lbs.)
For tuberculosis—						
Whole carcases ...	157	2	15	—	174	89,639
Part carcases ...	413	—	299	—	712	36,949
For other conditions—						
Whole carcases ...	45	1	25	65	136	30,854
Part carcases ...	52	—	68	19	139	1,893

The amount of offal condemned was 225,324 lbs.

The total weight of meat condemned therefore was over 171 tons.

Inspection of meat and other food at shops.—During the year the inspectors paid 11,453 visits to shops, stalls, etc., where food is stored or exposed for sale. Foodstuffs amounting in the aggregate to 1,728 lbs., and 486 tins of brawn and 6½ dozen packets of thyme, were found unfit for human consumption.

Export of animal products.—Veterinary certificates were granted for the export of the following:—

<i>to Brazil</i> —	1 tierce of sheep casings
<i>to France</i> —	2 tierces of beef bungs
<i>- to Holland</i> —	10 tierces of beef casings
	1 keg of sheep casings
	1 parcel of beef middles
<i>to Poland</i> —	816 bags of stearine
<i>to Latvia</i> —	13 tierces of beef middles
	3 tierces of sheep bungs

Sale of Food Order, 1921; Merchandise Marks Act, 1926; and Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act, 1928.—Attention has been given to these Acts so far as they concern foodstuffs. No legal action was found to be necessary.

Swine Fever Order, 1938.—During the year 11 pigs died within the Borough. Post-mortem examination showed that none had died from swine fever.

Anthrax Order, 1938.—During the year 2 cows died within the Borough. One was found to be suffering from anthrax.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.—The Act provides that all persons slaughtering animals in a slaughtering house or knacker's yard must be over eighteen years of age and be licensed by the local authority.

At the end of the year the names of 76 men to whom licences had been granted were on the register.

No contravention of the Act came under notice during the year.

Samples taken under Food and Drugs Acts.—During the year 511 samples were taken. Of these 262 were formal and 249 informal. 250 were samples of milk.

The articles sampled are set out in the following table:—

TABLE F 2
Samples taken during 1938

Article	No. samples taken formally	No. samples taken informally	Article	No. samples taken formally	No. samples taken informally
Milk ...	250	...	Minced beef...	...	7
Cream and tinned cream	...	7	Sauce ....	...	4
Dried milk	1	Tinned meat .....	...	1
Maltese milk....	...	1	Tinned fish .....	...	2
Condensed milk	5	Tinned fruit .....	...	1
Butter	12	Potted meat and fish paste...	...	5
Cheese and wrapped cheese	..	15	Jelly .....	...	5
Margarine	10	Dried fruit .....	...	15
Lard	1	6	Pudding .....	...	2
Dripping	6	Mincemeat .....	..	4
Tea	7	Spice.....	..	1
Coffee and Essences	10	Pickles .....	..	4
Cocoa	7	Vinegar .....	..	2
Jam	7	Olive oil .....	..	4
Lemon Cheese	6	Aspirin tablets .....	..	1
Honey	2	Almond oil	4	...
Treacle	5	Mercury ointment	2	...
Pepper	6	Powdered Gentian root	1	...
Salt	1	Health Salts .....	..	4
Mustard	1	Seidlitz powder .....	..	3
Sugar	2	Boracic ointment .....	..	2
Bread and Confectionery	..	6	Zinc ointment.....	..	2
Stuffing	3	Camphorated oil.....	..	2
Dried Herbs	10	Vaseline .....	..	1
Beef suet with rice flour...	..	3	Tincture of iodine .....	..	1
Rice	5			
Tapioca	1			
Oatmeal	3			
Barley	4			
Flour	3			
Custard powder	1			
Gravy Salt	2			
Brawn	1			
Sausages	4	17			
Samples analysed formally					
262					
Samples analysed informally					
249					
Total samples analysed during the year... 511					

Of the total number of samples analysed

- 23 samples of milk
- 7 samples of sausage
- 1 sample of lard
- 1 sample of dried mint
- 1 sample of dried thyme
- 1 sample of sago

were reported adulterated.

Proceedings were taken in respect of 8 samples of milk. With reference to the remaining samples reported adulterated, it was decided, after consideration of the circumstances, that it was inadvisable to institute proceedings.

Particulars of the defects found in those samples with regard to which proceedings were taken, and the result of the proceedings, are set out in Table F 3.

TABLE F 3

Samples with reference to which proceedings were taken.

Nature of adulteration and result of proceedings.

Date	Article	No. of sample	Adulteration	Fine inflicted or result
May 20	Milk	159	6% deficient in fat.....	Costs 14/6
June 10	Milk	167	13% deficient in fat.....	£2-0-0 fine
June 10	Milk	180	19% deficient in fat ; slightly watered....	£2-2-0 costs Case dismissed
June 24	Milk	196 197}	16% deficient in fat	Costs £1-9-0
July 1	Milk	198	5% deficient in fat.....	Case dismissed
July 1	Milk	199	6% deficient in fat	, , ,
Aug. 19	Milk	251	10% deficient in fat.....	Costs 14/6
Aug. 26	Milk	257	32% deficient in fat	Costs £1-15-6

TUBERCULOSIS

Public attention has been forcibly directed to the problem of tuberculosis by the recently-published Report on Tuberculosis in Wales. The continuous decline in the incidence of this disease has deservedly been a matter for satisfaction; but the decline has perhaps been taken for granted, and a feeling engendered that the mere passage of time would suffice to reduce the extent of tuberculosis to negligible proportions. The Welsh Report has had the salutary effect of shattering that easy belief.

Tuberculosis has again been revealed as primarily a disease of poverty, bad housing, insanitary environment. There is little hope of any material improvement in Wales unless at least the two latter obstacles to a healthy life are removed. Both can be dealt with by the powers given to local authorities by legislation. Indifference, financial incapacity, and inefficiency, individually or collectively, may prevent these powers being used; the result of negligence can only be to perpetuate an unnecessarily high level of tuberculosis.

Any radical attempt to deal with the problem in Wales must inevitably involve greater Exchequer assistance to the local authorities, to whatever extent redistribution of powers and areas may contribute to a solution. Provision of decent houses is not an unduly expensive matter provided an economic rent can be recovered. It has been demonstrated, however, that to families with low incomes the benefits derived from better housing conditions are offset by the ill-effects of smaller food-purchasing power. To such families, therefore, advantage can only be obtained if rents are below an economic level, and this necessarily means a heavier rate expenditure. The reluctance of local authorities to incur heavier expenditure in this respect accounts for the small extent to which this most difficult aspect of the housing problem has been tackled. It is futile to expect any further considerable fall in the tuberculosis rate until decent housing conditions replace the circumstances of gross overcrowding in which many members of the poorest stratum of society are compelled to exist. The growing rate burden upon most local authorities, particularly upon those whose financial capacities are small, suggests that without larger State grants in aid of housing improvement in the situation is likely to be slow.

Difficulties confronting the local authorities in Wales confront many of their counterparts in England, and whatever remedy is applied as a result of the recent Report must be applied in all cases, not in Wales only, where it is equally necessary. The death rate from tuberculosis in Birkenhead is, and always has been, materially higher than that for the country as a whole, and last year was only a shade lower than that for Wales. It is significant that the overcrowding rate in Birkenhead is also materially higher than that for the country as a whole (the ratio in both cases is approximately 12.5 : 10). Experience in Birkenhead has shown that many cases of tuberculosis are living in overcrowded conditions and so constitute an immediate menace to other members of their households. They cannot afford to pay rent for more ample accommodation, in which the risk of infection would be minimised, and in default of being provided with houses at an

uneconomic rent continue directly and indirectly to impose heavy financial burdens upon the community in the form of treatment costs and impaired or destroyed working capacity. There can be no doubt that the real gains deriving from increased expenditure on rehousing the very poor would be immense.

PREVALENCE OF, AND MORTALITY FROM, TUBERCULOSIS

Notifications.—The total number of primary cases of tuberculosis notified during 1938 was 222—179 respiratory and 43 non-respiratory: see Table T 1 (page 22).

Mortality.—The total number of deaths, certified as due to tuberculosis, of patients who had previously been notified as suffering from the disease, was 99—92 respiratory and 7 non-respiratory.

The total number of deaths, certified as due to tuberculosis, of patients who had *not* previously been notified as suffering from tuberculosis, was 16—6 respiratory and 10 non-respiratory.

Adding these together, the total number of deaths certified as due to tuberculosis was as follows:—

Respiratory	98
Non-respiratory	17
	—
	115
	—

An analysis of the tuberculosis mortality for the past ten years will be found in Table T 2 (page 23).

An analysis of the tuberculosis mortality during 1938 with reference to age and sex will be found in Table T 3 (page 23).

Number of known cases.—After making deductions for patients who had died during the year, or who had permanently left the district, or whose names have been taken off the register as provisionally cured, the total number of known cases of tuberculosis in Birkenhead at the end of 1938 was as follows:—

	Adults	Children (under 15 years of age)	Total
Respiratory			
Male	395	31	426
Non-respiratory	317	30	347
Male	49	169	218
Total....	74	162	236
Male	444	200	644
Female ...	391	192	583
Total	835	392	1227

CASES DEALT WITH THROUGH THE TUBERCULOSIS CLINIC

Attendances of patients at the clinic.—During the year 2,283 examinations were made. Of these 882 were *first* examinations (*i.e.*, examinations of patients who had not been seen previously at the

clinic).* In addition to attendances made for the purpose of medical examination, 734 other attendances were made by patients for weighing, interview, advice or certification, and by patients' relatives in connection with questions arising as to treatment, removal, home conditions, etc.

* This number includes contacts

Examination of patients who were notified for the first time during 1938.—Of the 222 new patients notified in 1938, 197 were examined at the clinic during the year. The remaining 25 were not referred to, did not attend at, or had been previously examined at, the clinic.

Classification of new cases.—The 544 new patients who attended during the year were classified as follows:—

		*Adults	Children	Total
Classed as suffering from respiratory tuberculosis	Male ...	63	2	65
	Female	51	3	54
Classed as suffering from other forms of tuberculosis	Male ...	10	12	22
.....	Female	10	11	21
Classed as non-tuberculous	Male ...	114	76	190
	Female	130	52	182
Classed as "suspect"	Male ...	6	1	7
	Female	3	—	3
Total...	Male ...	193	91	284
	Female	194	66	260
	Total	387	157	544

* All patients of fifteen years and upwards are classed as adults

Examination of contacts.—338 persons who had been in close contact with known cases of tuberculosis were examined either at the clinic or at their homes, and were classified as follows:—

		*Adults	Children	Total
Classed as suffering from respiratory tuberculosis	Male ...	3	4	7
	Female	7	2	9
Classed as suffering from other forms of tuberculosis	Male ...	—	2	2
	Female	—	1	1
Classed as non-tuberculous	Male ...	33	106	139
	Female	88	92	180
Classed as "suspect"	Male ..	—	—	—
	Female	—	—	—
Total...	Male ...	36	112	148
	Female	95	95	190
	Total.....	131	207	338

* All patients of fifteen years and upwards are classed as adults

HOME VISITING; DISINFECTION; COMPULSORY TREATMENT; ETC.

During the year the health nurses paid 233 first visits and 2,885 revisits to the homes of patients.

The number of houses disinfected after death or removal of patients was 79.

Sputum flasks are provided free of charge to patients.

The compulsory removal to hospital (for a period not exceeding 3 months) of a person suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis in an infectious state, and whose condition is a danger to other members of the house, is provided for by the Public Health Act, 1936 (Sect. 172).

The power to prevent a person suffering from tuberculosis of the respiratory tract from entering upon any employment or occupation in connection with a dairy which would involve the milking of cows, the treatment of milk, or the handling of vessels used for containing milk, is given to a Local Authority under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

It was not found necessary during the year to make use of the above powers in Birkenhead.

BIRKENHEAD ORTHOPAEDIC HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN

Patients dealt with.—At the commencement of the year there were 39 patients in the Hospital. There were 72 admissions during the year. These were classified as follows:—

Tuberculosis of bones and joints	6
,, abdominal glands or peritoneum	5
,, cervical and other glands	9
,, other organs	6
For observation and diagnosis	46

74 patients were discharged or transferred to other institutions; no deaths occurred. The condition on discharge may be summarised as follows:—

Disease quiescent	13
Improved	9
Found after observation not to be suffering from tuberculosis	47
No material improvement	5

There were 37 patients under treatment at the end of the year.

Average duration of stay.—For the patients discharged during the year the average length of stay in the sanatorium was 27 weeks.

Treatment.—Cod liver oil has now been displaced by one of the vitamin A and D preparations with equally good results. The administration of drugs is kept to a minimum.

CHESHIRE JOINT SANATORIUM

The approved accommodation for Birkenhead cases is 32 beds.

Patients dealt with.—At the beginning of the year 32 Birkenhead patients were under treatment. During the year 46 Birkenhead patients were admitted, 44 were discharged, and 2 died; 32 patients remained under treatment at the end of the year.

	Men	Women	Children (under 15)	Total
In Sanatorium January 1, 1938	17	13	2	32
Admitted during year..	25	20	1	46
Discharged or left Sanatorium during year	25	18	1	14
Died in Sanatorium	1	1	—	2
In Sanatorium December 31, 1938 ...	16	14	2	32

The following table shows the classification, length of stay, and result of treatment of the cases discharged during the year:—

Classification prior to entering Sanatorium *	Condition on discharge from Sanatorium	DURATION OF STAY IN SANATORIUM								Totals	
		Under 3 months		3 to 6 months		6 to 12 months		Over 1 year			
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
T.B. minus	Quiescent ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
	Improved ...	—	—	1	—	4	—	—	—	5	—
	No material improvement	1	3	2	1	1	—	1	1	5	5
	Died ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
T.B. plus Group I.	Quiescent ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Improved ...	1	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	3	1
	No material improvement	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
	Died ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
T.B. plus Group II.	Quiescent ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Improved ...	—	—	—	—	4	1	1	2	5	3
	No material improvement	1	1	—	—	1	3	1	4	3	8
	Died ...	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
T.B. plus Group III.	Quiescent ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Improved ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	No material improvement	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
	Died ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Explanation of group nomenclature: Patients suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis are divided into groups which may briefly be defined as follows:—
T.B. minus=cases in which tubercle bacilli have never been demonstrated in the sputum, etc.

T.B. plus, Group I=cases in which tubercle bacilli have at any time been demonstrated with slight constitutional disturbance and where the physical signs are of very limited extent.

T.B. plus, Group II=all cases which are neither slight nor advanced and which cannot be placed in Group I or III.

T.B. plus, Group III=cases with profound systemic disturbance or constitutional deterioration, marked impairment of function, either local or general, and with little or no prospect of recovery.

It should be noted that a patient originally in Group T.B. minus must be transferred to Group T.B. plus at any stage in the course of treatment if and when tubercle bacilli are found, while on the other hand a patient who is once placed in Group T.B. plus can never be transferred to Group T.B. minus.

A full explanation of the Groups will be found in Memorandum 37 T (R) issued by the Ministry of Health in October, 1930.

NOTE.—One female adult and one male adult were admitted for observation and discharged as non-tuberculous after two months' and one month's treatment respectively in Sanatorium.

LEASOWE HOSPITAL

There were 4 cases in hospital at the beginning of the year; no new cases have been admitted during the year, and 2 have been discharged; leaving 2 patients in hospital at the end of December.

The localisation of the disease in the 4 patients under treatment was as follows:—

Tuberculosis of hip	3
,, peripheral glands	1
	—
	4

The 2 cases discharged were as follows:—

Tuberculosis of hip	1 quiescent
,, peripheral glands	1 ,,,

In addition to the above there were 3 female adults in Leasowe Hospital at the beginning of the year; 1 new case (a female) was admitted during the year, and all the cases under treatment were discharged before the end of the year.

The localisation of the disease in the four cases under treatment was as follows:—

Tuberculosis of elbow	1
,, hands	1
,, tibia	1
,, peripheral glands	1

All the cases were discharged quiescent.

BIRKENHEAD MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL

Dr. Foster, Clinical Tuberculosis Officer, has acted as Consultant Physician (Tuberculosis) to the Municipal Hospital throughout the year. He visits the hospital regularly, sees patients suffering from tuberculosis and advises treatment, etc.

Details of the methods of treatment used were given in my annual report for 1933.

A Continuation Clinic at the hospital was opened during 1934, and accommodation is provided for persons requiring artificial pneumothorax treatment.

Artificial pneumothorax treatment.—During 1938, 1,036 refills were given by Dr. Foster, including 19 primary inductions. This represents a decrease of 20 refills over those given during 1937, and 13 more primary inductions. There were 1,108 screenings performed during the year.

X-ray examinations.—During the year 538 patients were sent from the Tuberculosis Clinic for X-ray examination at the Municipal Hospital, an increase of 35 over the number X-rayed during 1937.

TABLE T 1
New cases notified for first time during the year

Age periods.....	PRIMARY NOTIFICATIONS										65 and up	Total
	C-1	1-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65		
Respiratory—Male	—	—	4	3	8	11	14	21	26	14	6	107
Female	—	—	3	2	14	11	20	8	8	6	—	72
Non-respiratory—Male	—	3	7	7	1	1	4	—	—	—	—	23
Female	—	1	5	6	3	2	1	2	—	—	—	20
Total	—	4	19	18	26	25	39	31	34	20	6	222

TABLE T 2

Deaths from tuberculosis during the past ten years

	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
Deaths from tuberculosis of the lungs—										
Number	164	141	144	140	140	108	96	118	110	98
Rate per 1000	1.04	0.89	0.97	0.95	0.93	0.72	0.64	0.79	0.76	0.67
A Male—										
Number	93	83	83	72	86	62	68	63	54	62
Rate	0.58	0.52	0.55	0.48	0.57	0.41	0.45	0.43	0.37	0.42
B Female—										
Number.....	71	58	61	68	54	46	28	55	56	36
Rate	0.46	0.36	0.42	0.46	0.36	0.30	0.19	0.37	0.38	0.25
Deaths from other forms of tuberculosis—										
Number	39	29	36	29	22	28	13	12	16	17
Rate per 1000	0.24	0.18	0.24	0.19	0.14	0.18	0.09	0.08	0.11	0.11
A Male (all ages)										
Number	18	11	17	15	10	11	7	6	7	15
Rate	0.11	0.06	0.11	0.10	0.06	0.07	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.10
B Female (all ages)										
Number	21	18	19	14	12	17	6	6	9	2
Rate	0.13	0.11	0.13	0.09	0.08	0.11	0.04	0.04	0.06	0.01
C Children (un. 5 yrs)										
Number	19	8	22	6	7	8	2	1	5	5
Rate	0.12	0.05	0.14	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.03
Deaths from tuberculosis (all forms)—										
Number	203	170	180	169	162	136	109	130	126	115
Rate per 1000	1.29	1.07	1.21	1.14	1.08	0.90	0.73	0.88	0.86	0.79
Rate per 1000	0.96	0.89	0.89	0.83	0.82	0.76	0.72	0.68	0.69	0.63
England & Wales										

TABLE T 3

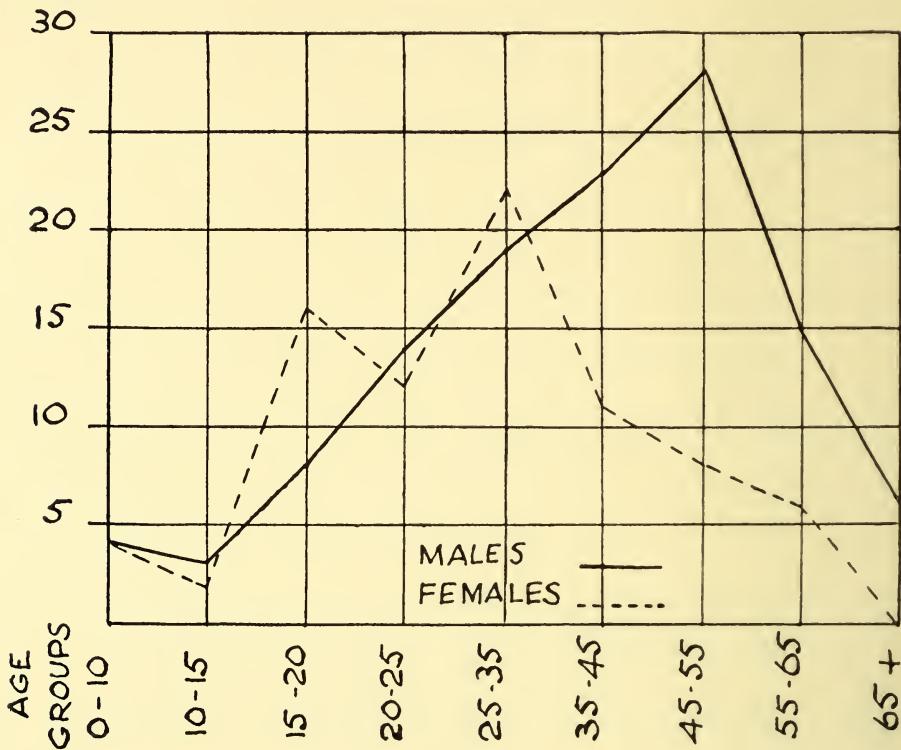
New cases and mortality during 1937

Ages	*NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0.....	—	1	2	—	—	1	2	1
1	—	—	4	1	1	—	2	—
5.....	4	3	9	5	—	—	3	—
10.....	3	2	8	7	—	—	—	—
15.....	8	16	1	4	2	5	2	—
20.....	14	12	1	3	7	9	1	—
25.....	19	22	5	1	11	6	3	—
35.....	23	11	1	2	10	5	1	—
45.....	28	8	—	2	15	6	—	1
55.....	15	6	1	—	10	4	1	—
65 and upwards.....	6	—	—	—	6	—	—	—
Totals...	120	81	32	25	62	36	15	2

* Includes all **primary** notifications and also all other **new cases** of tuberculosis which came to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year.

The subjoined graph shows the number of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis at various ages who were notified during 1938 :

NUMBERS



The Corkhill Fund.—Under the will of the late Mr. John Lloyd Corkhill, of Birkenhead, a sum of money was provided for the assistance of persons suffering from consumption. Persons applying for help are examined at the clinic, where appropriate treatment is decided upon.

VENEREAL DISEASES

There has been during recent years a fairly steady decline in the number of cases of syphilis treated at the Venereal Diseases Clinic, as will be seen from the following table; the number of gonorrhœa cases remaining more or less stationary.

NEW BIRKENHEAD CASES

	Syphilis.	Gonorrhœa.
1930	86	125
1931	105	96
1932	76	99
1933	67	100
1934	68	90
1935	54	81
1936	53	83
1937	38	87
1938	34	94

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

The diagnosis and treatment of cases (males and females) of venereal diseases at the Municipal Clinic at the Birkenhead General Hospital has been carried on during the year by Dr. E. Blackstock.

Of the 385 new cases dealt with at the clinic, 207 were residents of Birkenhead, 49 were from Cheshire County, 24 from Wallasey, 20 from other parts of the United Kingdom, 76 from India and Burma, and 9 from other parts of the world.

The in-patient treatment of persons suffering from venereal diseases is carried out at the Birkenhead Municipal Hospital.

At the special clinic for children held at No. 9, Hamilton Square, Dr. Blackstock has also been in attendance during the year. At this clinic the number of new cases seen during the year was 21. Two of these children were found to be suffering from venereal disease. It should be noted that in some cases children attended with their mothers at the General Hospital clinic. The attendances numbered 400 as compared with 552.

GENERAL NOTES

Cases dealt with.—(a) General Hospital clinic.—During the year 738 persons, comprising 553 males and 185 females, were dealt with at the clinic as out-patients.

This represents a decrease of 24 males and a decrease of 33 females as compared with the respective numbers for 1937.

The total attendances of out-patients was 10,784, 2,923 being in respect of non-Birkenhead residents. The number of in-patient days was 288.

New patients numbered 305 males and 80 females; of these, 178 were non-residents of Birkenhead. As is usual in seaports, sailors of many nationalities were treated at the clinic. Natives of China, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Finland, India and Burma attended during the year.

(b) Hamilton Square clinic.—During the year 55 children (30 males and 25 females) were dealt with at the clinic as out-patients, the total attendances made being 400.

The new cases seen numbered 21, and were diagnosed as follows:

Syphilis	2
No venereal disease	19

Bacteriological work.—(a) 967 smears were examined at the municipal laboratory for the presence of gonococci, and 7 specimens for the detection of treponema pallida were examined at the municipal clinic at the General Hospital.

Lumbar puncture was performed on 15 patients and 30 specimens of the fluid obtained were sent to the Liverpool University for examination.

(b) At the University of Liverpool 1,493 specimens were examined for the Wasserman reaction, 570 of these being sent from the municipal clinic at the General Hospital, 62 from the Hamilton Square clinic, and 861 from private medical practitioners and hospitals in the area; and 155 serum tests for gonorrhœa were also carried out.

Issue of arsenobenzene compounds.—Arsenobenzene compounds were issued during the year by the Medical Officer of Health to the Medical Officer of the treatment centres at the General Hospital and at No. 9, Hamilton Square; to the Medical Superintendent, Birkenhead Municipal Hospital; to the Diseases of the Skin Department, Birkenhead General Hospital; and to 1 approved general medical practitioner.

TABLE V 1

Statement showing the services rendered at the Venereal Diseases Clinic at the Birkenhead General Hospital during the year, classified according to the diseases dealt with

	Syphilis		Soft chancre		Gonorrhœa		Conditions other than venereal		Totals		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	T.L.
1. Number of cases on 1st January under treatment or observation	91	56	6	—	104	29	1	8	202	93	295
2. Number of cases removed from the register during any previous year which returned during the year under report for treatment or observation of the same infection	16	7	—	—	7	3	—	—	23	10	33
3. Number of cases dealt with for the first time during the year under report (exclusive of cases under Item 4) suffering from—											
Syphilis, primary	12	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	2	14
,, secondary	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	5
,, latent in 1st year of infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
,, all later stages.....	31	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	31	12	43
,, congenital	5	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	4	9
Soft chancre	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	10
Gonorrhœa, 1st year of infection..	—	—	—	—	114	21	—	—	114	21	135
,, later	—	—	—	—	30	2	—	—	30	2	32
Conditions other than venereal	—	—	—	—	—	—	101	36	101	36	137
4. Number of cases dealt with for the first time during the year under report known to have received treatment for the same infection, or to have been under observation at other centres.....	6	1	3	—	13	1	1	—	23	2	25
Total of Items 1, 2, 3 and 4 ...	163	85	19	—	268	56	103	44	553	185	738
5. Number of cases discharged after completion of treatment and final tests of cure or after diagnosis as non-venereal	4	1	7	—	38	4	77	30	126	35	161
6. Number of cases which ceased to attend before completion of treatment and were, on first attendance, suffering from—											
Syphilis, primary	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3
,, secondary	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
,, latent in 1st year of infection	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
,, all later stages	17	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	17	12	29
,, congenital	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	4
Soft chancre	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Gonorrhœa, 1st year of infection	—	—	—	—	44	30	—	—	44	30	74
,, later	—	—	—	—	13	2	—	—	13	2	15
7. Number of cases which ceased to attend after completion of treatment but before final tests of cure	4	1	—	—	26	1	—	—	30	2	32
8. Number of cases transferred to other centres or to institutions, or to care of private practitioners	45	2	7	—	61	3	21	7	134	12	146
9. Number of cases remaining under treatment or observation on 31st December	88	65	4	—	86	16	5	7	183	88	271
Total of Items 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 (These totals should agree with those of Items 1, 2, 3 and 4)	163	85	19	—	268	56	103	44	553	185	738

TABLE V 1—(continued)

	Syphilis		Soft Chancre		Gonorrhœa		Conditions other than venereal		Totals			
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	T ^o ls.	
10. Number of cases in the following stages of syphilis included in Item 6 which failed to complete one course of treatment—												
Syphilis, primary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
„ secondary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
„ latent in 1st year of infection.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
„ all later stages ..	2	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	5	7	3
„ congenital	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3	—
11. Number of attendances—												
(a) For individual attention of the medical officers.....	1327	1287	52	—	1336	315	292	197	3007	1799	480	
(b) For intermediate treatment, e.g. irrigation, dressing ...	19	16	13	—	4866	661	87	316	4985	993	5978	
Total attendances...	1346	1303	65	—	6202	976	379	513	7992	2792	10784	
12. In-patients—												
(a) Total number of persons admitted for treatment during the year	2	1	—	—	3	1	—	—	5	2	7	
(b) Aggregate number of "in-patient days" of treatment given.	123	1	—	—	36	136	—	—	159	137	296	
	Under 1 year		1 and under 5 years		5 and under 15 years		15 years and over		Totals			
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
3. Number of cases of congenital syphilis in item 3 above classified according to age periods	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	3	5	4		

	Arsenical		Mercury	Bismuth
	Approved Arsenobenzene Compounds	Others		
14.— (a) Names of chief preparations used in the treatment of syphilis ...	Novarsenobillon Kharsulphan	Tryparsamide Acetylarsan	— —	Bisoxyl Quinostab
(b) Total number of injections given (out-patients and in-patients)	842	701	—	1769

	Microscopical		Cultural for Gonorrhœa	Serum		Cerebral Spinal Fluid	Others for Diagnosis of Venereal Disease
	For Syphilis	For Gonorrhœa		For Syphilis	For Gonorrhœa		
15.— Pathological Work : (a) Number of specimens examined at, and by the Medical Officer of, the Treatment Centre	7	967	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Number of specimens from patients attending at the Treatment Centre sent for examination to an approved laboratory ...	—	—	—	570	155	12	—

TABLE V 2

Statement showing the services rendered at the Venereal Diseases Clinic at the Birkenhead General Hospital during the year, classified according to the areas in which the patients resided

OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

INFECTIOUS DISEASES WHICH ARE NOTIFIABLE

The infectious diseases which (in addition to tuberculosis, already dealt with) were compulsorily notifiable to the Medical Officer of Health at any time during the past year are set out in Tables I 1 and I 2 below.

TABLE I 1

Infectious diseases other than tuberculosis notified during 1928 :
showing seasonal incidence

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet fever	71	42	69	39	50	24	16	17	23	33	41	57	482
Diphtheria and membranous croup	66	61	41	28	40	22	10	25	28	37	29	33	420
Erysipelas	6	7	3	8	7	5	6	7	7	5	7	8	76
Typhus fever	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Typhoid fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	7
Continued fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Relapsing fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal meningitis	1	2	—	1	1	1	1	2	3	—	—	4	16
Encephalitis lethargica (acute)	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Polio-encephalitis (acute)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis (acute)	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Puerperal pyrexia	3	3	2	—	—	4	3	—	4	1	1	—	21
Ophthalmnia neonatorum	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	4
Cholera	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	37	16	27	23	8	22	7	4	11	13	36	25	229
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Totals	184	134	143	100	109	81	44	58	76	89	116	128	1262

TABLE I 2

Infectious diseases other than tuberculosis notified during 1938 :
showing ages

Disease	Under 1 yr.	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	5-10 yrs.	10-15 yrs.	15-20 yrs.	20-35 yrs.	35-45 yrs.	45-65 yrs.	65 yrs. up	Total
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet fever	—	9	27	31	26	222	93	32	30	9	2	1	482
Diphtheria and membranous croup	6	20	34	28	34	156	60	32	36	9	5	—	420
Erysipelas ...	3	—	—	—	—	5	3	2	11	14	30	8	76
Typhus fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid fever	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	2	1	—	7
Continued fever.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Relapsing fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal meningitis	1	—	1	3	—	2	4	1	2	2	—	—	16
Encephalitis lethargica (acute).....	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Polio-encephalitis (acute)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis (acute)....	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Puerperal pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17	4	—	—	21
Ophthalmia neonatorum	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Cholera	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia.....	30	24	18	13	15	20	10	9	19	17	34	20	229
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Totals	46	54	80	77	75	407	171	78	116	57	72	29	1262

Case-rates of certain diseases.—The case-rates of certain diseases for Birkenhead, and for England and Wales, per 1,000 living, are set out below:—

	Birkenhead	England and Wales
Smallpox	—	0.00
Scarlet fever	3.33	2.41
Diphtheria	2.90	1.58
Enteric fever	0.04	0.03
Erysipelas	0.52	0.40
Pneumonia	1.51	1.10

Cerebro-spinal fever.—16 cases were notified during the year.

Smallpox.—No cases of smallpox were notified in Birkenhead during the year.

DISINFECTION

Books.—417 Public Library books were collected from infected houses and disinfected.

Dwellings.—867 houses or parts of houses were disinfected during the year.

Bedding and clothes.—Infected bedding and clothes were collected from 779 dwellings and disinfected. In 25 further cases infected or discarded bedding and clothes were destroyed.

Visits and revisits paid to houses, etc., by the Infectious Diseases Inspector.—2,250 visits and revisits to property were made during the year in connection with disinfection after infectious diseases (including tuberculosis).

VACCINATION

Public vaccination.—Information relative to the number of persons successfully vaccinated and re-vaccinated at the cost of the rates by the Public Vaccinators and by the Medical Superintendent of the Birkenhead Municipal Hospital and Public Assistance Institution during the year ended 30th September, 1938, is given below:—

Name of District	Name of Medical Officer or Public Vaccinator	No. of successful primary vaccinations of persons:—			No. of successful re-vaccinations, i.e., of persons who had been successfully vaccinated at some previous time
		Under 1 year of age	1 year and upwards	Total	
Birkenhead North	Dr. H. C. Pierce	565	5	570	2
Birkenhead South	Dr. R. W. L. Pearson ...	460	1	461	15
Birkenhead Municipal Hospital and Institution	Dr. R. A. Grant	1	1	2	—
	Totals ...	1026	7	1033	17

The following is the latest completed information relative to vaccination in the Borough and relates to children whose births were registered from 1st January to 31st December, 1937, inclusive, viz.:—

	Birkenhead South	Birkenhead North	Whole Borough
No. of births	1,271	1,363	2,634
Successfully vaccinated	671	660	1,331
Insusceptible of vaccination	4	4	8
Had smallpox	—	—	—
Number in respect of whom statutory declarations of conscientious objection have been received	414	434	848
Died unvaccinated	74	74	148
Postponements, removals, or cases not found, etc.	99	69	168
Total No. of certificates and copies of certificates of successful primary vaccination of children under 14 received during the calendar year 1938	795	714	1,509
No. of statutory declarations of conscientious objection actually received by the Vaccination Officers irrespective of the dates of birth of the children to which they relate during the calendar year 1938	413	404	817
No. of cases successfully vaccinated after the declaration of conscientious objection had been made	—	—	—
No. of copies of certificates of successful primary vaccination sent to Vaccination Officers of other districts during 1938 ...	22	19	41

Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.—No primary vaccinations or revaccinations were performed by the Medical Officer of Health during the year.

ISSUE OF DIPHTHERIA ANTITOXIN

During the year, in accordance with the provisions of the Diphtheria Antitoxin (outside London) Order, 1910, diphtheria antitoxin was issued to 23 medical practitioners, in respect of 36 patients; a total of 416,000 units was given out.

Supplies of antitoxin were available to doctors not only at 9, Hamilton Square and the Infectious Diseases Hospital, but, by arrangement with the Watch Committee, at the various police and fire stations in the Borough.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

(a) Children attending Infant Welfare Clinics

Since 1926 facilities have been offered to the mothers attending the infant welfare clinics to have their children immunised against diphtheria.

Details of the work carried out during 1938 are set out below.

(b) **Children attending schools in the Borough**

During the year a new scheme for the immunisation against diphtheria of children attending elementary and secondary schools was put into operation.

The scheme, which was approved by the Health Committee, provided for the participation of medical practitioners in the Borough. Pamphlets stressing the value of immunisation were distributed through the schools during the early months of the year: these had slips attached (returnable to the Medical Officer) asking for further particulars of the scheme. On receipt of a slip a form was sent to the parent asking him to consult his family doctor, who then arranged either to carry out the immunisation himself (the material being supplied to him) or to refer the child to the Medical Officer for free treatment, which was made available at the clinics. Fourteen special clinic sessions were held for this purpose, seven medical practitioners being in attendance.

The response to the scheme was not as good as had been expected. This may have been due to the fact that during 1935 there were over 5,000 children immunised; it is possible that the majority of interested parents had their children protected in that year.

In addition to the special clinics which were held, ordinary school clinics dealt with 123 cases.

Details of the work carried out during the year are given below.

(c) **Staff, patients, etc., at the Isolation Hospital**

The immunisation of members of the staff at the Isolation Hospital, and of patients admitted suffering from diseases other than diphtheria, has been continued. In addition, other children (e.g., the brothers and sisters of patients) have been immunised at the request of parents. This work has been continued in addition to that carried out at the school and child welfare clinics.

Details of the work carried out during the year is set out below.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

Table showing work carried out during the year

Place where immunisation was carried out	Cases not completed	Completed cases
North Health Clinic		
(a) Infant Welfare Clinic.....	2	12
(b) 1. Special Clinic Sessions.....	—	490
2. School Clinic.....	9	53
South Health Clinic		
(a) Infant Welfare Clinic	5	49
(b) 1. Special Clinic Sessions	—	367
2. School Clinic	25	70
Hamilton Square Clinic		
(a) Infant Welfare Clinic	—	17
Mount Grove Clinic		
(a) Infant Welfare Clinic	—	28
Private practitioners in their own surgeries		
Hospitals		
Infectious Diseases Hospital	—	221
Birkenhead and Wirral Children's Hospital	—	25
Totals.....	41	1532

HOME NURSING

The arrangement made between the Corporation and the Birkenhead District Nursing Society, dating from 1st July, 1919, provides for the home nursing of cases of influenza and pneumonia. During the year 1938 the Society's nurses paid 1,588 visits in respect of 100 cases.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL

Cases treated during 1938.—At the beginning of the year there were 100 patients in the Infectious Diseases Hospital.

During the year there were 738 patients admitted to the wards, so that the total number of cases treated during 1938 was 838. The total number of in-patient days was 22,841.

There were 748 discharges and 18 deaths during the year; leaving 72 patients in hospital on 31st December, 1938.

An analysis of the cases admitted is given below:—

TABLE I 3

Patients sent in as suffering from	In hospital at beginning of year	Admitted during year	Died during year	Discharged during year	Remaining in hospital at end of year
Scarlet fever	M. 8 F. 15	128 171	1 1	120 163	15 22
Diphtheria	M. 36 F. 39	196 207	5 6	215 220	12 20
Enteric fever	M. 1 F. ...	4 2	1 ...	4 1	...
Cerebro-spinal fever	M. 1 F. ...	7 5	2 1	6 3	...
Erysipelas	M. ... F. ...	2 5	1 ...	...	1 ...
Measles	M. . F. ...	1 2	...	1 2	...
Whooping cough	M. ... F. ...	1 ...	...	1...	...
Other diseases	M. ... F. ...	2 5	...	2 5	...
Totals	100	738	18	748	72

Diphtheria.—The type of diphtheria was moderately severe throughout the year. The value of immunisation has been strikingly demonstrated — the percentage of previously immunised patients admitted with true diphtheria was fractional.

Of 403 cases admitted to the diphtheria wards, 219 were finally diagnosed as suffering from diphtheria.

Of the remainder, 54 were "carriers" and 130 were found to be suffering from diseases other than diphtheria or from no disease. The corrected diagnoses of these cases were as follows: Tonsillitis (96), laryngitis (7), pneumonia (9), rhinitis (3), measles (1), scarlet fever (5), and no disease (9).

There were 8 deaths ascribed to diphtheria. The mortality calculated on actual clinical cases (including those in hospital at the beginning of the year) was 2.72 per cent.

Of the cases found not to be suffering from diphtheria, three, suffering from pneumonia, died.

Of the 8 cases dying of diphtheria, 2 died within 24 hours of admission.

23 cases were admitted suffering from laryngeal obstruction. Of these 4 died. The operation of tracheotomy was performed in 8 of these cases.

Duration of illness before admission to hospital.—The average duration of illness before admission was 3 days.

Days in hospital.—The length of stay in days of cases diagnosed as suffering from diphtheria who were discharged during the year is indicated below:—

Under 10	10-15	16-20	21-25	26-30	31-35	36-40	41-60	61-80	81-100	Over 100
5	3	6	10	29	46	39	56	17	6	2

The average length of stay was 38.8 days.

Table showing age and sex of patients admitted during the year as suffering from diphtheria:—

Age-period in years	0-1 yrs.	1+ yrs.	2+ yrs.	3+ yrs.	4+ yrs.	5-9 yrs.	10-14 yrs.	15-19 yrs.	20-29 yrs.	30-39 yrs.	40+ yrs.	Totals	
Recovered or still in Hospital	M. F.	2 3	14 6	16 14	14 9	21 13	77 69	18 37	15 17	8 19	5 7	2 7	192 201
Died	M. F.	1 ...	1 ...	...	1 2	1 ...	1 2	...	...	...	...	4 6	
Totals ...		6	21	31	25	35	148	57	32	27	12	9	403

Scarlet fever.—There was no alteration in the type of scarlet fever as compared with the preceding year; the disease being mild in character. 1 death occurred from the disease in the hospital.

During the year there were 299 cases admitted to the hospital notified as suffering from scarlet fever. The diagnosis was confirmed in 286 cases. The addition of 5 cases erroneously diagnosed as suffering from diphtheria brings the total to 291.

The corrected diagnoses in the 13 mis-diagnosed cases were as follows: Tonsillitis (3), erythema (1), rhinitis (2), measles (1), cellulitis (1), chicken-pox (1), influenza (1), aseptic rash (1) and no disease (2).

There was 1 death from scarlet fever, the case mortality being 0.32 per cent.

The following are the principal complications which were noted:—

Late adenitis	15	cases or 4.4 per cent.
Arthritis	8	„ 2.3 „
Otorrhoea	21	„ 6.6 „
Tonsillitis	2	„ 0.6 „
Rhinitis	7	„ 2.2 „
Nephritis	5	„ 1.6 „
Mastoid	4	„ 1.3 „

Days in hospital.—The length of stay in days of cases diagnosed as suffering from scarlet fever who were discharged during the year is indicated below:—

6-10	11-15	16-20	21-25	26-30	31-35	36-40	41-50	51-60	61-80	Over 80
1	3	31	123	52	27	21	18	5	5	1

The average length of stay was 30.2 days.

Table showing age and sex of patients admitted during the year as suffering from scarlet fever:—

Age-period in years	0-1 yrs.	1+ yrs.	2+ yrs.	3+ yrs.	4+ yrs.	5-9 yrs.	10-14 yrs.	15-19 yrs.	20-29 yrs.	30-39 yrs.	40+ yrs.	Totals
Recovered or still in Hospital	M. ...	4	7	13	5	66	18	8	3	2	1	127
	F. ...	4	6	8	11	63	41	20	10	3	4	170
Died	M. ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
	F. ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Totals ..	...	8	14	21	16	129	60	28	13	5	5	299

During the year the practice of restricting the administration of antitoxin serum to severe and complicated cases has been continued.

Measles.—3 cases were admitted during the year. The diagnosis was confirmed in all the cases, and all were discharged cured.

Erysipelas.—There were 7 cases admitted to the wards notified as suffering from erysipelas. The diagnosis was confirmed in 4 of the cases, 1 of whom died. Of the other cases, 1 suffered from sunburn, 1 from eczema and 1 from insect bite.

Enteric fever.—The diagnosis of enteric fever was confirmed in 3 cases admitted to the wards notified as suffering from this disease.

The infecting organism in each case was paratyphosus B.

Other diseases and conditions.—*Whooping cough.*—One patient was admitted to the wards as suffering from whooping cough, the diagnosis being confirmed.

Cerebro-spinal meningitis.—12 cases were admitted as suffering from cerebro-spinal meningitis. Of these 10 were finally diagnosed as cerebro-spinal meningitis, the others as constipation. 3 of the cerebro-spinal meningitis patients died.

Chicken-pox.—3 cases were admitted and discharged.

Mumps.—2 cases were admitted and discharged.

Influenza.—1 case was admitted and discharged.

Constipation.—A case which was admitted as one of poliomyelitis proved to be suffering from constipation.

Hospital accommodation.—The lack of adequate cubicle accommodation at the hospital imposed an undue strain upon the medical and nursing staff. Building of an additional cubicle pavilion was begun during the year.

Staff.—Throughout the year Dr. R. Sandilands acted as Resident Medical Officer, and was in full clinical charge of all patients. The general health of the staff was satisfactory. Tests for susceptibility to scarlet fever were unnecessary, as all newcomers to the staff had already had the disease.

Training of nurses.—Courses of instruction for the examinations of the General Nursing Council have been maintained continuously throughout the year. 4 nurses presented themselves for the final examination in 1938, 3 of them passing. 3 nurses sat for the preliminary examination, all of them passing.

E. P. Smith memorial fund.—No patients received assistance from this fund during the year.

C A N C E R

The Minister of Health requests that a detailed statement should be furnished as to the facilities available in, or for, the area for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer, together with the deaths from cancer shown by age distribution.

Leaflets stressing the importance of securing early treatment are distributed from time to time at the various clinics maintained by the Local Authority.

By arrangement with the departments concerned, all Corporation employees whose work brings them constantly into close contact with tar or certain of its derivatives are examined quarterly by the Assistant Medical Officers with the object of securing early treatment of epitheliomatous cancer should be diagnosed.

Patients suffering from cancer are admitted to the Birkenhead Municipal Hospital, Church Road, Birkenhead. Operative facilities are provided, but there are no facilities for deep X-Ray therapy or for treatment by radium.

There is no out-patient department at the hospital, but there is a Continuation Clinic which is used for "follow up" cases.

No arrangements have been made by the Council, under a specific agreement or otherwise, for treatment at other hospitals of cancer patients for whom adequate treatment facilities are not available in the Municipal Hospital. Suitable cases for X-radiation and radium are, however, referred through their own medical practitioners to the Radium Institute, Liverpool.

Below is a table showing the number of Birkenhead residents dealt with in the Municipal Hospital during the year:—

SITES	Patients admitted after previous advice or treatment at another hospital providing radiation as well as operative treatment			Patients admitted after previous advice or treatment at another hospital providing operative but not radiation treatment			Patients admitted without previous advice or treatment at another hospital		
	(a)	Numbers treated at that hospital	Numbers not treated at that hospital	Treated at that hospital			Not treated at that hospital		
				(b)	(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)	(a)
Uterus.....	7	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	11
Tongue and Mouth..	2	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...
Breast.....	1	...	...	...	...	...	8	...	...
Lip .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Skin .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Larynx .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bladder .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...
Rectum .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	42	...	...
Other sites	4	...	7	...	1	1	97	...	2
Total.....	14	...	8	...	1	...	171	...	3

The number of deaths from cancer of Birkenhead residents during the year, classified according to age and sites of the disease, is shown below:—

SITES	0-1	1-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65+	Total
Buccal Cavity and Pharynx	1	1	1	1	1	8	12
Digestive Organs and Peritoneum	1	2	3	13	43	67	129	
Respiratory Organs.....	2	2	10	5	5	8	27
Uterus	1	3	4	6	6	14
Other Female Genital Organs	1	3	4	1	1	9
Breast	2	2	3	3	6	13
Male Genito-Urinary Organs...	4	9	13
Other or Unspecified Organs	1	...	...	2	3	2	13	21
Total.....	1	1	5	12	35	66	108	238

The following table shows the cancer death-rate in Birkenhead since 1921 as compared with the country generally:—

Year	BIRKENHEAD			ENGLAND AND WALES
	Population	Number of deaths from cancer in Birkenhead	Rate per 100,000 population	
1921	147,800	186	125	121
1922	149,200	172	115	123
1923	151,400	179	118	127
1924	154,100	179	116	130
1925	155,500	199	129	133
1926	158,000	204	129	136
1927	158,500	206	130	137
1928	159,200	229	145	142
1929	157,600	214	136	143
1930	157,600	228	144	145
1931	148,500	206	138	148
1932	147,700	197	133	151
1933	151,060	208	138	153
1934	150,100	235	156	156
1935	149,400	235	157	158
1936	148,000	241	163	162
1937	145,500	252	173	163
1938	144,400	238	165	166

This table shows a generally steady increase in the number of deaths recorded annually as due to cancer. While this increase is probably associated with some increase in the cancer risk at all ages, it must be remembered firstly that many cases of the disease which in earlier years went unrecognised are now recorded as a result of improved methods of diagnosis; and secondly that a larger proportion of people are now living into the later age-periods—that is, into the age-periods where cancer is more prevalent.

Many types of cancer are now much more curable than formerly, provided treatment is applied early. The importance of obtaining medical advice as soon as any doubtful symptoms occur cannot be overstressed.

MUNICIPAL LABORATORY

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

Dr. J. Morrison Ritchie has been in charge of the work carried out at the Municipal Laboratory throughout the year. The staff consists of Dr. Ritchie as Bacteriologist, two (one senior and one junior) laboratory assistants, and one clerk.

The work carried out for the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Birkenhead Orthopaedic Hospital, and Birkenhead Municipal Hospital includes general bacteriological, pathological and biochemical examinations; ward visits; lectures to nurses; and consultations with medical staff.

The bacteriological supervision of the Borough water supplies is carried out at the laboratory. Food poisoning outbreaks are investigated. Clinical material from suspected cases of enteric, tuberculosis, typhus, anthrax, diphtheria, etc., is examined. The milk supply of the Borough is kept under careful observation.

In addition to the examinations carried out for the County Borough of Birkenhead, the work of the Laboratory now includes the bacteriology, biochemistry, and pathology for Clatterbridge (County) General Hospital and Leasowe Open-Air Hospital, and the bacteriological examinations for the Bebington Urban Sanitary Authority.

EXAMINATIONS CARRIED OUT AT THE LABORATORY

Examination of Clinical Material.—The nature and number of examinations of clinical material made at the municipal laboratory during 1938 are shown in the following table:—

Bacteriological examinations of water.—Examinations of the Alwen water supply were carried out at the laboratory during the year; 91 complete bacteriological examinations were made, samples being taken from the mains ,and from the Alwen reservoir before and immediately after filtration. In addition 16 from other sources were examined, including waterworks pumping station and houses.

Bacteriological examination of milk.—(a) *The general bacteriological examination of graded milks.*—During the year the regular bacteriological examination of graded milks was carried out. 215 samples were examined. The work is undertaken primarily because of the introduction into the Borough of "designated milks" as laid down in the Milk (Special Designations) Order. These milks are:—

- (1) "Tuberculin Tested" and "Tuberculin Tested (Certified)."
- (2) "Accredited."
- (3) "Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)."
- (4) "Pasteurised."

These examinations are carried out for the Corporation, who grant the licences for the retailing of these classes of milk.

(b) *The general bacteriological examination of ungraded milk.*—Samples of ungraded milk have been examined from time to time, but no routine examination is carried out on ordinary milk, for which no standard of bacteriological purity has been laid down.

The routine examination of ordinary milk is very valuable, inasmuch as it is this milk which forms the principal supply of a very large section of the community.

(c) *The examination of ungraded milk for tubercle bacilli.*—It was unfortunately found necessary to curtail still further this branch of the work, the number of samples which were examined falling from 324 in 1936 to 209.

Out of these 209 samples living tubercle bacilli were found in 29. Making due allowance from duplicates, this means that *one in every seven contained living tubercle bacilli*. Such milk constitutes a grave source of danger to the public, especially to children, and the importance of carrying out bacteriological examination on as wide a scale as possible therefore should need no emphasis.

(d) *The examination of milk dried for tubercle bacilli.*—Samples of dried milk issued at the municipal clinics are periodically examined at the laboratory with a view to the detection of the presence of living tubercle bacilli.

The following routine procedure is followed with regard to the bacteriological examination of milk :

(a) *General bacteriological examination*

This consists of:—

- (a) The enumeration of micro-organisms present per cubic centimetre.
- (b) Examination for the presence of *B. coli* in specified quantities of milk.

1. Graded liquid milks

Each supply is examined twice in a year—once in the first half year and once in the second half year. In connection with pasteurised milk produced by a firm in the Borough, one sample is examined monthly.

2. Ungraded liquid milks

Samples are examined from time to time but not at regular intervals. It is intended that this work should be developed when adequate laboratory accommodation is provided.

(b) Examination for tubercle bacilli

This consists of an examination by biological experiment to ascertain whether living tubercle bacilli are present.

1. Graded liquid milks

Each supply is examined twice in a year—once in the first half year and once in the second half year. In connection with pasteurised milk produced by a firm in the Borough, one sample is examined monthly.

2. Ungraded liquid milks

Milk from each source of supply is examined twice in a year—once in the first half year and once in the second half year.

3. Dried milks

Two samples from each source are examined annually, one in the first half year and one in the second half year.

Typhoid and paratyphoid.—Typhoid and paratyphoid B. were both present in Birkenhead during the year.

Food poisoning.—Several cases of food poisoning were investigated by the Laboratory, the material examined ranging from ice cream and jellies to meat, pork pies and vinegar. The salmonella group of food poisoning organisms were in evidence on several occasions, including a couple of cases due to an organism rarely found in this country.

Streptococcal infections.—As was mentioned in my report for 1933, streptococcal infections occur frequently among the general population. In conjunction with the Infectious Diseases Hospital, regular examinations of throat swabs are carried out for the presence of haemolytic streptococci. As this organism is frequently found in chronic catarrhal conditions, a number of vaccines have been prepared and issued for treatment purposes, in many cases with excellent results.

Malaria.—Malaria was diagnosed by the Laboratory on several occasions during the year.

Veterinary work.—Work done in conjunction with the Veterinary Officer includes, besides the examination of milks for tuberculosis, such investigations as are necessary for the efficient maintenance of the horses belonging to the Corporation. While no individual spectacular case occurred during 1938 there is a considerable amount of steady work done in this connection and consultations with the Veterinary Officer are frequent.

Some cases of suspected anthrax were investigated during the year, but with negative results.

Birkenhead offers unrivalled opportunities for the scientific investigation of diseased meat. Many samples are examined under the microscope, and museum specimens are prepared from time to time.

Lectures.—At the Birkenhead Municipal Hospital, courses of lectures were given to the nursing staff on bacteriology, pathology, and bio-chemistry, in connection with the examinations for the State Certificate of the General Nursing Council.

Museum.—Interesting specimens are added to the pathological museum from time to time, which will be of great value for teaching purposes.

...

Comparison with previous years.—The work of the Laboratory has grown steadily during the past eight years. Details are given below:—

Nature of specimens		1931		1938
Sputa for B. tuberculosis	...	1473	...	3086
Cultures for B. diphtheriae	...	1994	...	6112
Diphtheria virulence tests	...	20	...	55
Blood tests (agglutination)	...	39	...	132
Smears for gonococci	...	511	...	1006
General bacteriological examinations	...	742	...	6140
General biochemical examinations	...	257	...	2298
General pathological examinations	...	152	...	2538
Vaccines issued	...	29	...	69
Milk, graded, bacterial counts	...	161	...	215
Milk, samples for tubercle bacilli	...	421	...	209
Milk, special examinations	...	—	...	2
Water, bacteriological examinations	...	97	...	107
Total ...	...	5896	...	21969

BIRKENHEAD MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL**ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS**

Dr. R. A. Grant, F.R.C.S. (Edin.), Medical Superintendent, has been in charge of the Hospital throughout the year, and has prepared all the statistics relating to cases dealt with.

The services of the following Consultants on the staff of the Medical Officer of Health were retained during the year 1938:—

Aurist and Laryngologist—Mr. P. W. Leathart

Psychiatrist—Dr. S. Barton Hall

Orthopaedic Surgeon—Mr. T. Hartley Martin

Obstetric Surgeon and Gynaecologist—Mr. S. B. Herd

Ophthalmic Surgeon—Dr. D. L. Charters

Physician—Dr. W. Johnson

Radiologist—Mr. R. W. Gemmell

The greatest co-operation has existed between the hospital and other sections of the Medical Officer of Health's Department.

TABLE B.M.H. 1
Admissions, birth, discharges and deaths, 1938

	Men	Women	Children	Total
In Hospital at 31st December, 1937	165	157	121	443
<i>Admissions:</i>				
From own homes or other hospitals	1622	2464	909	4995
From Birkenhead Public Assistance Institution ..	47	35	18	100
From Scattered Homes	—	—	43	43
Births in Hospital	—	—	481	481
Total cases dealt with	1834	2656	1572	6062
<i>Discharges:</i>				
To own homes or other hospitals	1161	2148	1270	4579
To Birkenhead Public Assistance Institution ..	123	130	26	279
To Scattered Homes	—	—	43	43
Deaths in Hospital	376	238	134	748
Total discharges and deaths	1660	2516	1473	5649
Cases in hospital, 31st December, 1938	174	140	99	413

TABLE B.M.H. 2
Surgical Operations Carried Out, 1938

Major operations (excluding tonsils and adenoids)	1380
Operations for tonsils and adenoids:—	
School medical service	49
Others	10
	59
Eye operations	16
Nasal operations	9
Dental operations	20
	1484

TABLE B.M.H. 3
Maternity Cases dealt with, 1938

	Total No. of women dealt with	Married	Single	Total No. of children dealt with	Live Births	Still Births
Cases dealt with	584	533	51	514	481	33

TABLE B.M.H. 4
X-ray and ultra violet ray treatment, 1938

X-ray examinations made of:—

Stomach	304
Kidney	171
Chest	1356
Bladder	70
General	799
	— 2700
Patients to whom X-ray treatment was given	—
X-ray films used	5170
Screenings	1108

TABLE B.M.H. 5
Ophthalmic examinations and treatment, 1938

Patients seen	335
Attendances made by patients	644
Spectacles prescribed	137
Spectacles not prescribed	198
	— 335
Operations performed	16

TABLE B.M.H. 6
Sunlight, massage, electrical and remedial exercises treatment, 1938

	Attendance	Treatments
Patients to whom sunlight treatment was given	127	1056
Patients who received massage treatment	68	302
Patients who received massage and electrical treatment	157	1517
Patients who received electrical treatment only	169	1482
Patients tested for electrical reactions	8	8
Patients treated by exercises	48	288
Patients treated by exercises and massage.....	163	1454
	740	6107
	—	—

TABLE B.M.H. 7

Dental treatment, 1938

Patients examined	334
Patients treated : for extractions	304
for scalings	2
for dressings	5
not treated	23
	—
Operations performed	334
	24

TABLE B.M.H. 8

Specimens sent to Municipal Laboratory, 1938

Bacteriological specimens	6919
Biochemical specimens	1375
Pathological specimens	1344
	—
	9638

TABLE B.M.H. 9

Examinations of nursing staff, 1938

Nature of examination	No. of Nurses who sat	No. of Nurses who passed	No. of Nurses who failed
State Register Examination of General Nursing Council	17	12	5
Hospital Final Examination	15	12	3

Blood Transfusion.—The Merseyside Blood Transfusion Society has given its customary valuable services; 20 blood transfusions being performed during the year.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

Cases of mental deficiency fall into two categories—

- (a) Those which can be dealt with under the Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913 to 1938; for these the Mental Deficiency Acts Committee is responsible.
- (b) Those which can be dealt with under the Education Act, 1921; for these the Education Committee is responsible.

CASES COMING WITHIN THE PROVISIONS OF THE MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACTS, 1913 to 1938

The definition of cases coming within the provisions of the above Acts was given in full in my report for 1930.

During the past year 17 new cases came under the care of the Mental Deficiency Acts Committee.

12 cases were sent to institutions by judicial orders.

9 cases were placed under supervision pending institutional vacancies arising; 8 cases were placed under home supervision; 1 case died; and 1 case was discharged from institution.

21 first visits and 486 re-visits were paid to the homes of mental defectives by the Health Nurses.

At the end of 1938 there were under the care of the Mental Deficiency Acts Committee 588 cases, as set in the following table:—

In institutions (placed by the Mental Deficiency Acts Committee under judicial orders)—

	Males	Females	Total
Birkenhead Institution	6	—	6
Cranage Hall Certified Institution	30	42	72
Rampton State Institution	—	1	1
	36	43	79

In institutions (placed by the Birkenhead Public Assistance Committee, or by parents; not under judicial order)—

Birkenhead Institution, etc.	4	6	10
Royal Albert Institution (Lancaster) ...	3	—	3
	7	6	13

In Rampton State Institution (placed by Board of Control—cases which have become too violent for retention in ordinary institutions)

2	4	6
---	---	---

Under home supervision—	Males	Females	Total
(a) Cases which should be in institutions	33	20	53
(b) Under domiciliary treatment by Public Assistance Committee	8	9	17
(c) Others (including ex-Special School cases, 297 in number)	254	161	415
Under guardianship	4	1	5
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	299	191	490
Total	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	344	244	588

Crarage Hall Certified Instituition.—Towards the end of 1936, additional accommodation became available at this institution; the number of patients for whom beds could be provided being increased from 62 beds (all for high grade females over the age of 16 years) to 318 beds (96 males and 182 females over the age of 16 years, and 40 cot and chair cases for both sexes of all ages).

At the end of 1938, the number of Birkenhead cases in the institution was 72 (30 males and 42 females).

Although the increased accommodation at Crarage Hall has proved useful, there is still a large number of cases on the register for whom accommodation is required. The Crarage institution has so far provided largely for the type of patient for whom there has never been difficulty in finding beds elsewhere. It is for the lower grade cases, and cases of a complicated type, that accomodation is so urgently required.

Cases in other institutions.—There are 13 cases in institutions for whom provision should be made by the local Mental Deficiency Authority. These 13 cases are defectives who have been placed at the instance of the Public Assistance Committee, parents, etc.

Occupation Centre.—An Occupation Centre was opened by the Mental Deficiency Acts Committee in 1935 for the reception of cases who are ineducable within the meaning of the Education Acts. A description of the activities of the Centre were given in my annual report for 1935. At the end of 1938 there were in attendance at the Centre 23 children (10 boys and 13 girls); the average attendance during the year was 19.

The staff of the Centre consists of a supervisor (Miss E. Holding), an assistant, a cook-guide, and a resident caretaker. The cook-guide does the cooking and brings the children to the Centre.

Dr. S. Barton Hall, the Consultant Psychiatrist on the staff of the department, has attended periodically at the Centre during the year, and has examined the children in attendance, as well as other patients who were referred to him.

CASES DEALT WITH UNDER THE EDUCATION ACT, 1921

The definition of cases coming within the provisions of the above Act was set out in my annual report for 1930.

Reference is made to such cases in the section of this report which deals with the school medical service.

CASES COMING WITHIN THE PROVISIONS OF THE
BLIND PERSONS ACT, 1920

The following classes of persons are included in the category of mental defectives by the Ministry of Health for the purposes of the Blind Persons Act, 1920:—

Blind persons suffering from epilepsy, fits or nervous disability.

WELFARE OF THE BLIND

Blind Persons Act, 1938.—Changes in the law regarding the welfare of blind persons were made by the Blind Persons Act, 1938, which came into force on the 1st April, 1938. Chief of these are (a) the age of eligibility for an old age pension is reduced to forty; (b) all assistance, other than assistance in an institution or medical assistance, must be provided exclusively by virtue of the Blind Persons Acts and not by way of poor relief; and (c) financial assistance must be sufficient to cover the needs not only of a blind person, but of any person dependent upon him.

In Birkenhead, financial and other assistance to blind persons has been given other than by way of poor relief since 1930.

GENERAL FACTS REGARDING BLIND PERSONS IN BIRKENHEAD

Number and ages of blind persons.—The total number of blind persons in Birkenhead coming within the scope of the Blind Persons Act, 1920, on 31st December, 1938, was 317; of these 174 were males and 143 females.

Age.	M.	F.	Total.	%
0—1	...	—	...	
1—5	...	—	1	2.2
5—16	...	3	3	
16—21	...	4	—	
21—40	...	26	12	38
40—50	...	23	10	33
50—65	...	46	41	87
65—70	...	22	21	43
70 and over	50	55	...	105
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
	174	143	317	

The ascertained causes of blindness are as follows :

	M.	F.	Total.
Cataract only	45	35	80
Cataract and myopia	5	5	10
Cataract and glaucoma ...	1	2	3
Cataract and other defects	6	11	17
Glaucoma only	18	12	30
Myopia only	17	17	34
Corneal obstruction	19	15	34
Other causes	63	46	109
	<hr/>	<hr/>	
	174	143	317

Blind persons who are otherwise defective.—Forty-two of the blind persons on the register were handicapped in addition by other physical or mental defects:—

	M.	F.	Total.
Mentally defective	5	4	9
Deaf	7	7	14
Deaf and dumb	1	1	2
Otherwise physically defective	10	7	17
	—	—	—
	23	19	42
	—	—	—

Children under 16 years of age.—These numbered 7; 3 boys and 4 girls. 3 boys and 2 girls were attending schools for the blind; 1 girl was in a Sunshine Home for Blind Children; 1 girl, aged two years, was at home.

Conditions as regards employment.—The following table shows the position of blind persons in the area over the age of 16 with reference to employment :—

	M.	F.	Total.
Employed	17	4	21
Trained but unemployed	4	3	7
Under training	4	2	6
Not trained, but probably trainable	1	2	3
Probably unemployable	145	128	273
	—	—	—
	171	139	310
	—	—	—

The occupations of the employed blind in the area were as follows:—

	M.	F.	Total.
Agents, collectors, etc.	2	—	2
Basket & cane workers, brush makers, mat makers	12	4	16
Tuners	2	—	2
Miscellaneous	1	—	1
	—	—	—
	17	4	21
	—	—	—

Home Teachers.—Miss Jones paid 972 visits to blind persons, including 119 visits for the purpose of teaching Braille, Moon or handicrafts.

Miss Crossley paid 1,032 visits to blind persons, including 165 visits for the purpose of teaching Braille, Moon or handicrafts.

Meetings of the occupation class were held on 47 occasions : the average attendance was 20.

Seven social evenings were arranged : these were held at the North and South Health Clinics respectively. Thanks are due to the various concert parties which gave their services. Eleven rambles and outings were organised by the Home Teachers.

Home Visiting by Health Nurses.—The Health Nurses paid 28 first visits and 3 revisits to blind persons in the area.

Financial assistance to blind persons.—At the end of the year 231 blind persons (94 males and 137 females) were in receipt of financial assistance under the scheme of the Council for the Welfare of the Blind.

The Deaf-Blind.—The Council have agreed to pay one-third of the cost of suitable hearing-aids prescribed by the Department of Education of the Deaf of Manchester University : these instruments may be obtained at a lower cost from certain firms by certified blind persons.

HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

The staff engaged on the work of housing and general inspection consisted, at the end of the year, of the Chief Inspector, one housing inspector, eight district inspectors, and one inspector's assistant.

The eight district inspectors and the assistant inspector are required to give approximately half their time to the work of housing inspection.

One of the district inspectors devoted almost the whole of his time to duties in connection with air raid precautions: the work of the department suffered accordingly.

GENERAL

Area of the Borough.—The area of the Borough (land and inland water) is 8,598 statute acres. This area is largely built over, or otherwise occupied, by domestic buildings, docks, factories, railway stations and sidings, etc.

Number of dwelling houses in the Borough.—The number of dwelling houses of all descriptions within the Borough, excluding institutions, on 31st December, 1938, was 33,612.

Number of other buildings in the Borough.—The number of other buildings within the Borough, on 31st December, 1938, was 5,854.

New dwellings erected, 1921-1938.—The new dwellings erected in the Borough between the date of the 1921 census and the end of 1938 were as follows:—

(1)	Between the date of the 1921 census and 31st December, 1937—	
	(a) With State assistance under the Housing Acts, 1919-1936	
	(i) By the Local Authority	3198
	(ii) By other bodies or persons.....	609
	(b) Other	3086
		— 6893
(2)	During 1938—	
	(a) With State assistance under the Housing Acts, 1919-1936	
	(i) By the Local Authority	368
	(ii) By other bodies or persons.....	—
	(b) Other	323
		— 691
		— 7584

No houses were erected during the year which did not comply with the building byelaws.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION TAKEN IN CONNECTION WITH
HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE

(a) Housing : action taken under Housing and Public Health Acts

During the twelve months ending 31st December, 1938, the following work was carried out by the department under the provisions of the Housing and Public Health Acts, and Regulations:—

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	10404
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	41492
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	1071
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	18807
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	—
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	612

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	—
---	---

3. Action under statutory powers during the year :—

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	612
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	796
(b) By local authority in default of owners	—

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	2609
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	2693
(b) By local authority in default of owners	—

C.—*Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—

D.—*Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:*

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	—
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—

4. **Housing Act, 1936.—Overcrowding :—**

(a)— (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	699
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	704
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	4129
(b)—Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	59
(c)— (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	507
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	2751½
(d)—Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the local authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	—
(e)—Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report ...	—

(e) **General environmental conditions exclusive of housing**

The following shows, in summarised form, the work carried out by the Inspection staff in connection with matters other than the condition of domestic dwellings:—

Number of smoke observations taken	93
Number of smoke nuisances from factory and other chimneys reported to the Health Committee	—
Number of schools specially examined by the sanitary inspectors	73
Number of cowsheds inspected	93
Number of inspections of dairies and milkshops ...	510
Number of inspections <i>re</i> offensive trades	148
Number of sewer ventilators inspected	68
Number of street gullies inspected	86

Number of caravans inspected	6
Number of re-inspections of caravans	76
Number of back passages inspected	168
Number of investigations regarding the keeping of pigs, fowls, and other animals	40
Miscellaneous inspections (not included above) ...	2746

(d) Theatres, Music Halls, &c.

(Ministry of Health Circular No. 120, dated 25th August, 1920)

73 visits were made to theatres, music halls and other places of entertainment, with a view to ascertaining whether conditions as to ventilation, structure of dressing rooms, etc., were satisfactory.

(e) Rats and mice

The following is a summary of the work carried out by the district inspectors under the provisions of the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919 :—

Number of premises inspected	444
Number of visits and re-visits	753
Number of notices served on occupiers	203
Number of notices served on owners	197
Number of premises satisfactorily dealt with	419
Number of premises still under observation or where work is being carried out	25

(f) Inspection of lodging houses, &c.

Depletion of staff caused by transfer to Air Raid Precautions work made it impossible for any inspection of lodging houses to be carried out.

(g) Swimming baths and pools

There are three public swimming baths in the Borough.

Samples of water from these baths are taken at intervals, before and after bathing has taken place. These samples are examined bacteriologically at the Municipal Laboratory.

There are no privately owned swimming baths or pools open to the public in the area.

(h) Eradication of bed bugs

The Corporation Estates Repairs Supervisor reports that during the year 160 Council houses and 315 other houses were found to be infested. All these houses were disinfested.

The means employed by the Supervisor in freeing infested occupied houses from bugs is hydrocyanic acid gas ; the actual work being carried out by contract. This is used only for treating the belongings and furniture of the tenants ; the goods being taken to the Corporation Yard, where gas is applied. All furniture, bedding, etc., is thoroughly examined before being passed as free.

When houses are vacant, "Zaldecide" is used by the Supervisor's staff for freeing infested houses, and is stated to have proved most successful.

The disinfection of occupied premises is carried out by contract.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The Factories Act, 1937 (s.128), requires the Medical Officer of Health in his annual report to the Council to report specifically on the administration of that Act in workshops and workplaces. The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year:—

1.—Inspection of factories, workshops and workplaces

Premises	No. of		
	Inspections	Written notices	Prosecutions
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	8	2	—
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) ...	401	11	—
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises)...	—	—	—
Total.....	409	13	—

2.—Defects found in factories, workshops and workplaces

Particulars	No. of defects			Number of prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts*—</i>				
Want of cleanliness	20	22	—	—
Want of ventilation	—	2	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances.....	18	18	—	—
<i>Sanitary accommodation—</i>				
Insufficient	1	1	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	7	7	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
<i>Offences under the Factory & Workshops Acts—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bake-house (s. 101).....	—	—	—	—
Other offences	1	1	—	—
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921.)				
Total.....	47	51	—	—

*Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

Home work.—Lists were received from employers as follows:—
 From employers sending twice in the year—4 lists (8 workmen).
 From employers sending once in the year—3 lists (2 contractors, 6 workmen).

In each case the work handled was the making of wearing apparel.

Registered workshops.—The workshops on the register at the end of the year were:—

Bakehouses	46
Confectioners	49
Boot repairers	23
Cabinet making and upholstery	10
Dressmaking	11
Millinery	4
Tailoring	16
Laundries	11
Joinery and carpentry	6
Saddlery and harness making	4
Smiths	7
Wagon repairers	4
Motor and cycle repairers	4
Other workshops	19
	—
	214

Other matters.—

Workshops removed from the register	17
New workshops opened and placed on register	—
Number of underground bakehouses on the register at the end of the year	20

RAG FLOCK ACT, 1911

Pursuant to the provisions of the above Act, 14 visits were made.

At the time of these visits the rag flock being used or stored on the premises was to all appearance in a satisfactory condition; no samples were, therefore, taken for the purpose of analysis.

PHARMACY AND POISONS ACT, 1933

The names of 3 persons, entitled to sell poisons included in Part II of the poisons list, have been entered on the register of persons so entitled, and the names of 114 persons previously registered have been retained on the register.

Seven persons have discontinued the sale of poisons and their names have been removed from the register.

HEALTH EDUCATION

During the early part of the year the campaign organised by the Central Council for Health Education in association with the Ministry of Health was concluded. By means of the exhibition of posters and the distribution through the schools and otherwise of folders and leaflets the public were exhorted to use their health services, of which one branch was dealt with each month. A large audience attended at the Town Hall in January to hear Mr. Kenneth Lindsay, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary of the Board of Education, enlarge on the purposes of the campaign and the important part the public health service was playing in the promotion of a healthier nation. Demonstrations of physical training by central school children and by the Y.M.C.A. team gave point to what Mr. Lindsay said. There was a general rise in the number of cases attending the various clinics during the year : how far this was a result of the publicity campaign is a matter for conjecture.

Two lectures were given in December at the North and South Health Clinics by Dr. T. Drummond Shiels, Medical Secretary of the British Social Hygiene Council, on " Biological Principles in Sex Education." The Chairman of the Health Committee (Councillor Vines) took the chair at one meeting and the Deputy-Chairman (Councillor Bullock) at the other. As the lecture (which was illustrated with films) was of interest and importance to parents and teachers, it was well advertised, all the senior schools being circularised by the Director of Education. Despite this, the attendances were disappointing. That the public were too preoccupied with the anxieties of the international situation to devote their time to other matters is an explanation for the lack of support that is plausible but not convincing. The most fruitful results in regard to public health apparently will accrue from a greater concentration upon the education of the child.

The supplies of leaflets giving details of the public health services which in 1937 had been circulated through post offices in the town were soon exhausted. A much larger distribution was consequently made.

Posters supplied by the Central Council for Health Education were exhibited on the Corporation's two poster-frames throughout the year.

A fourth edition of the booklet descriptive of the town's Public Health Services (printed and supplied by Messrs. Ed. J. Burrow & Co.) have been circulated. Copies may be obtained on application to the Medical Officer's Department.

In one or two girls' schools the head teachers have arranged for health nurses to give occasional talks to the older children on hygiene and such matters. These talks are a valuable method of providing instruction and arousing interest, and greater use of the health nursing staff in this direction might be made with advantage.

One lecture was given by an Assistant Medical Officer to a church organisation ; and a series of lectures was given by a health nurse to a Ranger Company in connection with their studies for their Public Health Badge.

The local Press again have been unfailingly helpful in giving publicity to the work of the department.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

The Midwives Act, 1936.—The Council's scheme for the provision of a salaried midwifery service has now completed its first full year of working. Every care had been taken to frame the scheme in such a way as to cause the minimum amount of clerical and recording work to fall upon the midwives, and the minimum amount of formality to intervene between midwife and patient. In consequence, few difficulties from an administrative point of view have arisen, and the personal relationship of the midwife to her patient has been preserved. Cases are booked in the midwives' homes; and except when a patient requires to apply for reduction or remission of fee, or when settling an account, there is no contact with a Corporation office.

The town is divided into four districts, with three midwives living in each district; and as far as possible, without insistence upon complete rigidity, midwives do not book outside their boundaries. Careful arrangements have been made for the constant availability of midwifery assistance under all circumstances : midwives can thus enjoy their week-ends off duty in the knowledge that the interests of their patients will not suffer.

It was calculated when the scheme was framed that each midwife would on an average deal with ninety patients annually. The average number of bookings per midwife was this number precisely. There were, however, considerable discrepancies as between one midwife and another, and certain adjustments will require to be made to reduce these.

The Maternity Hospital midwife, in respect of whose services the Corporation makes an annual payment to the Hospital of £185, covers the whole area of the town. The same scale of fees and conditions of payment apply to her patients as to the patients of the municipal midwives; fees being the property of the Corporation.

Toddlers Clinics.—It is disappointing that fuller advantage has not been taken of the facilities offered by these Clinics. Although, as far as possible, the mothers of babies are approached on the eve of their babies' first birthday, very few apparently appreciate the importance of a periodical medical examination, and the increase in attendances is small. It was pointed out in last year's Report that the object of a toddlers clinic is to exercise supervision over the child during the years between infancy and entry into school. Advice as to correct " bringing up " may be given; incipient defects may be discovered and remedies applied. The value of a toddlers clinic is therefore considerable, and proper use of the facilities provided would go far towards securing the entry into school life of healthy children able to derive full benefit from their education.

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

Staff.—The following table shows the disposition of the medical staff engaged on duties in connection with Maternity and Child Welfare work:—

	Antenatal	Infant Welfare	Toddlers
Hamilton Square	Dr. Unsworth	Dr. Unsworth	Dr. Unsworth
North	Dr. Unsworth	Dr. Williams	Dr. Williams
South	Mr. Herd	Dr. Blackstock	Dr. Blackstock
Mount Grove ...	—	Dr. Dodd	—

In addition to the part-time services of the Chief Health Nurse and the whole-time services of the Assistant Supervisor of Midwives, the equivalent of the whole time of ten nurses was available at the end of the year. Dr. Unsworth acted as Medical Supervisor of Midwives, Miss M. M. Graham as Assistant Supervisor.

The services of the Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist (Mr. Herd) are available for difficult cases sent by the Assistant Medical Officers and by medical practitioners in the area.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF MIDWIVES

Number of midwives.—During the year 87 midwives (only 1 of whom was untrained) gave notice of their intention to practise in the borough. 50 were in domiciliary and 37 in institutional practice.

4 midwives surrendered their certificates under the terms of the Midwives Act, 1936.

Number of cases attended by midwives.—The cases attended by midwives alone (no doctor being in attendance) numbered 2,147; three-quarters of the total births in the Borough.

Work carried out by Assistant Supervisor of Midwives.—Below is set out a summary of this work.

Inspection of midwives:	Visits to midwives' homes	333
	Interviews in office	554

Visits in connection with—

cases requiring medical aid	968
necessitous midwifery cases	159
cases of puerperal pyrexia	10
cases of ophthalmia neonatorum	5
cases of stillbirth	47
expectant mothers	145

Other visits	41
Attendances at antenatal clinics	96

Cases requiring medical aid.—484 cases were notified by midwives in which medical aid had been called, as against 451 last year.

Notifications received from midwives.—The following notifications were received:—

Stillbirths	29
Substitution of artificial feeding	30
Deaths	2

Ophthalmia neonatorum.—4 cases were notified during the year. 3 of these were treated at home, the other case being dealt with in hospital. Vision was unimpaired in 3 cases. One case died.

Salaried midwives.—The following is a summary of the work of the salaried midwives:—

Number of bookings	1088
Number of births	983
Number of visits to patients	22364

Under the terms of the agreement made in 1937, the Corporation pays to the Birkenhead Maternity Hospital for domiciliary midwifery an annual sum equivalent to the minimum salary (£170) of a municipal midwife, together with £15 for expenses. The Hospital midwife carried out work as follows:—

Number of bookings	85
Number of births	87
Number of visits to patients	1715

HOME VISITING OF EXPECTANT MOTHERS, MOTHERS, AND YOUNG CHILDREN

Home visiting.—The following is a summary of the visits paid by the health nurses in connection with expectant mothers, mothers, and young children:—

2396 routine visits were paid to infants under 1 year old.

4701 routine revisits were paid to infants under 1 year old.

11153 routine visits were paid to children over 1 year and under 5 years old.

*112 first visits were paid to expectant mothers.

*57 revisits were paid to expectant mothers.

89 visits were made in connection with deaths of infants.

168 visits were made in connection with miscellaneous matters.

2909 visits were made in which no access could be obtained.

*Does not include visits paid by Assistant Supervisor of Midwives (see above).

INFANT WELFARE CLINICS

At the end of the year the infant welfare clinics were being held as follows:—

Hamilton Square clinic: Monday and Wednesday afternoons,
2 to 5 p.m.

South clinic: Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, 2 to 5 p.m.

Mount Grove clinic : Friday afternoons, 2 to 5 p.m.

North clinic: Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, 2 to 5 p.m.

The following table gives an indication of the work done at the clinics during the year:—

	Hamilton Sq. (100 sessions)		South (102 sessions)		Mount Grove (51 sessions)		North (104 sessions)		Totals	
	1st visits	Re-visits	1st visits	Re-visits	1st visits	Re-visits	1st visits	Re-visits	1st visits	Re-visits
Attendances made by infants under 12 months ..	379	7072	411	7388	168	3257	421	7416	1379	25183
Attendances made by children aged 1-2 years	14	515	15	1191	20	512	4	789	53	3007
Attendances made by children aged 2-5 years	32	180	9	379	31	155	1	111	73	825
Examinations of children by doctor	425	4052	413	3402	217	1618	398	4077	1453	13149
							Total	1505		28965

Voluntary workers.—I have again to express appreciation of the valuable services given at the various clinics by voluntary workers, who gave up a great deal of their time for this purpose.

Supply of milk.—Dried milk was sold at the clinics to suitable cases.

During the year supplies of milk were given free under the Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1921, to

330 nursing mothers,

932 children and

361 expectant mothers.

As a general rule milk is given only to—

(a) Nursing mothers who are actually suckling their children;

(b) Expectant mothers in the last three months of pregnancy;

(c) Children up to nine months whose mothers are unable to nurse them.

It is within the discretion of the assistant medical officers to extend the period of supply in the two latter cases. In all cases it must be ascertained that the supply is essential for the maintenance of health.

TODDLERS CLINICS

These clinics were held once weekly at the North and South Clinics; and once monthly (beginning in November) at the Hamilton Square clinic.

Below are particulars of the work carried out:—

	North (48 sessions)		South (46 sessions)		Hamilton Sq. (2 sessions)		Totals	
	1st Visits	Re- Visits	1st Visits	Re- Visits	1st Visits	1st Visits	1st Visits	Re- Visits
Attendances made by children under 1 year	11	123	14	308	1	—	26	431
Attendances made by children aged 1-2 years	13	637	22	621	6	9	41	1267
Attendances made by children aged 2-5 years	47	566	71	977	10	17	128	1560
					Total		195	3258

The Hamilton Square clinic was opened in November : it has not been possible for it to be held more than once monthly.

ANTENATAL CLINICS

Antenatal clinics were held once weekly at Hamilton Square, the North Clinic and the South Clinic. Clinics were held on 155 occasions; the number of patients dealt with being 1,243 and the total number of attendances made being 5,815. Of this total 170 patients carried over from 1937 made 1,073 attendances.

Condition with regard to pregnancy.—The condition with regard to pregnancy of the 1,073 new cases at the time of their first visit was as follows:—

(a) 307 were in their first pregnancy.

(b) 734 were in their second or subsequent pregnancy (227 of these patients had attended the clinic during a previous pregnancy; 94 during two previous pregnancies; 37 during three previous pregnancies; 23 during four previous pregnancies; 7 during five previous pregnancies; 10 during six previous pregnancies; and 6 during seven or more previous pregnancies).

(c) 32 were not pregnant.

Abnormalities.—The abnormalities or diseases found to be present in the new cases who attended the clinics during 1938 were as follows:

(a) Women who came to the clinics in their first pregnancy

Abnormality or disease	No. of cases
Tuberculosis	3
Cardiac disease	4
Albuminuria	1
Ectopic gestation	1
Epilepsy	1
Other conditions.....	2

(b) Women who came to the clinics in their second or subsequent pregnancy

Abnormality or disease	No. of cases
Venereal diseases	1
Varicose veins	1
Albuminuria.....	1
Tuberculosis	3
Cardiac disease	11
Epilepsy	1
Other conditions.....	3

Progress of pregnancies.—

(1) *New cases*

(a) Of the 307 women who came in their first pregnancy 231 were delivered before the end of 1938, having 122 boys and 110 girls (including 1 set of twins and 7 still-born children).

2 had miscarriages.

11 left the district.

63 were not delivered before the end of the year.

(b) Of the 734 women who had had previous pregnancies 502 were delivered before the end of the year, having 263 boys and 244 girls (including 5 sets of twins and 17 stillborn children).

14 had miscarriages.

7 left the district.

211 were not delivered before the end of the year.

(2) *Cases carried forward from 1937 (170 patients)*

(a) Of the 52 women who came in their first pregnancy 50 were delivered during the year, having 24 boys and 26 girls (including 1 stillbirth).

1 was not pregnant.

1 left the district.

(b) Of the 118 women who had had previous pregnancies 112 were delivered during the year, having 58 boys and 54 girls including 2 stillbirths.

3 were not pregnant.

3 left the district.

Attendances at clinics.—Below are set out the details of attendances at clinics:—

HAMILTON SQUARE CLINIC

(52 Sessions)

	First pregnancy	Subsequent pregnancy	Non-pregnant	From 1937	Total
Cases	104	290	9	66	469
Attendances.....	339	1549	14	343	2245

NORTH CLINIC

(51 Sessions)

	First pregnancy	Subsequent pregnancy	Non-pregnant	From 1937	Total
Cases	99	263	9	51	422
Attendances.....	347	1450	16	226	2049

SOUTH CLINIC

(52 Sessions)

	First pregnancy	Subsequent pregnancy	Non-pregnant	From 1937	Total
Cases	104	181	14	53	352
Attendances	532	700	17	272	1521

Maternity outfits.—1 outfit was lent out and returned during the year.

POSTNATAL CASES

A small amount of postnatal work was carried out at antenatal clinics (see page 68) as follows :

Clinic	Cases	Attendances
Hamilton Square	42	56
North	15	27
South	21	24

ARTIFICIAL SUNLIGHT TREATMENT

Artificial sunlight treatment was given to cases attending at the North and South Health Clinics. 175 sessions were held during the year. 87 cases attended for the first time, a total of 1,562 attendances being made. Dr. Williams and Dr. Blackstock were in charge of this work.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION

At the end of the year the names of 60 children were entered on the register in accordance with the provisions of Section 65 of the Children and Young Persons Act, 1932, as having been taken by persons to keep for reward. 20 children were in St. Faith's Home, 18 in Christ Church Home, 4 in All Saints' Home, and 18 in charge of foster parents at private dwellings.

The Health Nurses paid 18 first visits and 307 revisits to these children.

OTHER PROVISION MADE BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

Cases dealt with at Maternity Hospital.—Under the agreement with the Hospital cases of complicated pregnancy, or who live in unsuitable conditions, are admitted to the Hospital for their confinements. Payment at the rate of 10/- per in-patient day is made by the Corporation; the total annual payment not to be under £100 or over £400.

During the year 9 cases were admitted under the terms of the agreement. In respect of the financial year 1937-38 the payment to the Hospital was £108 10s. 0d.

Cases dealt with by the Birkenhead District Nursing Society.—Under the agreement with the Society the Corporation makes an annual payment of £90 to the Society in respect of attendance upon expectant and nursing mothers, and young children under the age of five years suffering from certain conditions.

During the year the Society's nurses paid 450 visits to 35 cases; and in addition paid 1,489 visits to 107 children for conditions not covered by the agreement.

Cases of confinements attended by medical practitioners.—In 330 cases where doctors were called in to difficult cases of confinement the doctors' fees were paid by the Corporation under the provisions of the Midwives Act, 1918. Accounts for the full amount of the fees in 101 cases, and of part of the amount in 8 cases, were rendered to patients.

Temporarily necessitous cases attended by independent midwives.

—In 67 cases where midwives attended temporarily necessitous cases of confinement the midwives' fees were paid by the Corporation under Section 204 of the Public Health Act, 1936. In no case was any part of the fee recovered from a patient.

AGENCIES ASSISTED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

The Corporation gives financial support to certain institutions, etc., for general services rendered in connection with maternity and child welfare work.

Birkenhead and Wirral Invalid Children's Association.—Arrangements are made by this Association to send children to convalescent homes, and to provide massage treatment for cases of infantile paralysis, etc. During the year 1938, 45 children were sent to convalescent homes by the Association.

St. Faith's Home for Mothers and Babies.—Here accommodation is provided for unmarried mothers and their children—23 cots for babies and 12 beds for mothers. The number of cases admitted to the Home during the year was as follows:—

Expectant mothers	15
Babies	2

Birkenhead Maternity Hospital.—There are 21 beds provided at the hospital (exclusive of isolation and labour beds). The number of cases admitted during the year was 536.

4 beds are provided for delicate babies. 18 babies were admitted during the year.

At the maternity and child welfare clinic held in connection with the hospital the following attendances were made during the year:—

Antenatal clinic: Patients 606, attendances 3,695.

Infant welfare clinic: children under 1 year—
1st visits 275; revisits 1,844.
children 1—5 years—
1st visits—; revisits 54.

St. Elizabeth's Convent.—At the maternity and child welfare clinic held in connection with this Institution the following attendances were made during the year:—

Antenatal clinic: Patients 87; attendances 142.

Infant welfare clinic: children under 1 year—
1st visits 161; revisits 1,368.
children 1—5 years—
1st visits 57; revisits 952.

Birkenhead Mothers' Welfare Clinic.—This clinic provides information and help in regard to birth control; it also advises women who wish to have children and have been unsuccessful.

Financial assistance.—The grants made by the Corporation to the voluntary associations providing maternity and child welfare services are as follows:—

	£
Birkenhead and Wirral Invalid Children's Association	175
St. Faith's Home for Mothers and Babies	650
Birkenhead Maternity Hospital—	
(a) Hospital treatment of delicate babies	100
(b) Infant welfare centre	90
St. Elizabeth's Convent	50
Birkenhead Mothers' Welfare Clinic	25

AGENCIES NOT PROVIDED OR ASSISTED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

Other agencies whose work in Birkenhead touches the welfare of mothers and infants, but which are not provided or assisted by the Birkenhead Corporation, are the following:—

- The Birkenhead and Wirral Children's Hospital
- Birkenhead Centre of Social Service
- The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
- The Gynaecological Clinic at the General Hospital

MATERNAL MORTALITY

The Registrar-General's annual statement of causes of death includes 5 deaths connected with pregnancy and childbirth.

This gives a maternal mortality rate of 1.94 per 1,000 birth (living and still), as compared with a rate of 2.97 for the whole country.

The causes of deaths were as follows:—

Puerperal sepsis	2
Other puerperal conditons	3

MISCELLANEOUS**NURSING HOMES**

Under the Public Health Act, 1936, any premises used "for the reception of and the providing of nursing for persons suffering from any sickness, injury or infirmity" (excluding Government and municipal hospitals and those established by Act of Parliament or Royal Charter) are required to be registered by the local authority, which has the power to exempt institutions not carried on for profit. The owners of non-registered homes are subject to penalty.

It is the duty of the local authority to inspect and generally to supervise registered nursing homes; and it can, if it thinks fit, cancel registration.

New bye-laws governing the conduct and management of nursing homes were approved by the Council towards the end of the year. They have not yet been confirmed by the Ministry of Health.

At the end of the year the number of nursing homes registered in the Borough was 13, a reduction of two on last year's total. All these homes were inspected quarterly by an Assistant Medical Officer. They were generally maintained efficiently; suggestions as to minor improvements in various ways usually being adopted readily by the owners.

OCCUPATIONS

The staple industries of the district are shipbuilding, ship-repairing and engineering.

The Registrar-General's returns setting out the occupations of persons resident in the Borough at the time of the 1931 census became available in 1934, and were published in my annual report for that year.

HEALTH OF SCHOOL CHILDREN

Staff.—The Medical Staff engaged in carrying out School Medical Service duties at the end of the year consisted of Dr. Blackstock, Dr. Williams, Dr. Dodd, Dr. Unsworth and Dr. Marsh; the last-named being engaged on part-time duty.

Mr. P. Wilson Smith, L.D.S., Dental Surgeon, and Miss E. M. Warlow, L.D.S., Mr. A. C. Capper, L.D.S., and Mr. M. Smith, L.D.S., Assistant Dental Surgeons, comprised the dental staff at the end of the year; Mr. M. Smith having succeeded Mr. W. G. Walch in September.

Co-ordination.—The medical staff (with the exception of Dr. Marsh) and health nursing staff are engaged in all sections of the Medical Officer's Department's work. In this respect, therefore, co-ordination between the school medical services and the other health services is effectively maintained. Administrative co-ordination also is close; and the readiness of the Director of Education and his staff to be helpful is recorded with appreciation.

School Hygiene.—The premises of all public elementary schools are kept under the regular supervision of the Assistant Medical Officers. Attention is given particularly to the condition of the sanitary conveniences, lavatories, cloakrooms and playgrounds; and to the efficiency of ventilation and lighting. It is in some of the older voluntary schools that most matter for criticism is found.

Child Guidance.—13 Birkenhead school children were referred during the year to the Liverpool and District Child Guidance Clinic; in most cases by the Probation Officer. The problems for investigation covered a wide range, including pilfering, speech disorders, solitariness and untruthfulness. In some instances the problem was resolved, in others improvement was effected. In 3 cases the child ceased to attend before treatment was completed.

Orthopaedic Clinic.—Reference was made in last year's report to the growing number of cases of such relatively minor defect as flat foot which was being referred to the Orthopaedic Clinic. The hope was expressed that as a result of the appointment of two organisers of physical training remedial exercises could be carried out in the schools on Dr. Hartley Martin's directions under the supervision of these organisers. By means of this arrangement the growing pressure on Dr. Martin's time and on the resources of the clinic could be relieved. Unfortunately it was not found possible for the arrangement to be effected, as the available time of the organisers was fully occupied in the instruction of class teachers. Further consideration will be given to the matter during the coming year.

Junior Instruction Centres.—The work of the Department has been increased during the year by the necessity to carry out medical inspections at the Junior Instruction Centres. It was the wish of the Minister of Labour that these inspections should be of a routine character—that is to say, that each child in attendance should be submitted to examination. As, however, the personnel at the centres shifts very rapidly (the average length of stay is not more than three or four weeks) this would have meant many more visits than it would have been possible for the medical staff to pay. In the event, it has only been possible to carry out a monthly inspection of the children in attendance at the centres, and this is more hurriedly than is desirable. The value of the work is inconsiderable, not only on this account, but because few forms of treatment are available. Juveniles entitled to National Health Insurance medical benefit may be referred to panel practitioners, and others may receive treatment at the minor ailments clinics. But visual and dental defects are those most frequently present, and for neither of these is treatment available except for those whose parents can afford to obtain it privately. It should be said that failure to take advantage of facilities offered during school life is largely responsible for the prevalence of defects among these juveniles.

Open-Air School.—At the end of 1938 day and residential open-air schools were provided by over 120 local education authorities in England and Wales. Birkenhead was not one of these.

Children with Defective Hearing.—The audiometer referred to in last year's annual report was obtained during the year. Head teachers were asked to submit the names of children who they felt had not full hearing ability or whose educational backwardness was not obviously due to mental dulness. As a consequence 91 such names were submitted. 66 children had their hearing tested before the end of the year. In 21 cases hearing was normal; of the others, in 3 cases it was so deficient as to require the children to be educated in a school for the deaf and in 19 cases in a school or class for the partially deaf. For 23 children it was recommended that they should sit in the front of their class.

It is an easy matter to make provision for children who are totally deaf; but it is difficult to deal with those who have a fair degree of hearing. They obviously cannot derive proper benefit from their education in an ordinary elementary school, and so, for this reason alone, start their earning life at a disadvantage. It would not be proper, however, for more than one reason, to send them to a residential institution for the deaf. On the other hand, it is not practicable to provide special educational facilities in its own school for each child that needs it. A centralised class entails lengthy travelling for most of the pupils; and, because it has to cater for children of both sexes and all ages, presents obvious teaching difficulties. As it seems likely that the remainder of the children to be examined will yield the same proportion of those suffering from partial deafness, there will be a sufficient number of cases to warrant, despite the difficulties mentioned, the formation of a special class, so that these children's physical handicap will not involve also an educational handicap.

Physical Training.—The Birkenhead Education Committee share with the County Borough of Wallasey and the Cheshire County Authority (Wirral District) the services of a man and a woman Organiser of Physical Training.

The Organisers visit elementary and secondary schools, conduct classes in physical training for teachers and club leaders and are available to give advice to "Keep Fit" classes, two of which (for mothers) have been established in connection with the Parents' Association in two schools.

Since the last report the Committee have secured two sites of 5 and 10 acres respectively which it is hoped to lay out during this year as playing fields for elementary school children. A third site of some 15 acres is to be fenced and tenders for the lay-out invited.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Number of elementary schools and school children.—The number of elementary schools in the borough is :

Council Schools	22		
Voluntary Schools	20	Total	42

The recognised accommodation of these schools was :

Council Schools	16,753		
Voluntary Schools	10,986	Total	27,739

The average number of scholars on the rolls was :

Council Schools	12,305		
Voluntary Schools	7,720	Total	20,025

The average attendance was :

Council Schools	10,946		
Voluntary Schools	6,721	Total	17,667

MEDICAL INSPECTION

(see note a)

A.—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

Number of Inspections in the Prescribed Groups (see note b)—			
Entrants	2275		
Second age group	1976		
Third age group	1949		
	—		
Total	6200		

Number of other Routine Inspections (see note c)

Fourth age group	1795		
Claughton Road C. School	84		
Sight-Saving Class	18		
	—		
Total	1897		
	—		
Grand Total	8097		

B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS

Number of Special Inspections (see note d)	5610		
In schools	91		
In clinics	5519		
	—		
Number of Re-inspections (see note e)	6256		
In schools	2558		
In clinics	3698		
	—		
Total	11866		
	—		

CHILDREN FOUND TO REQUIRE TREATMENT

Number of individual children found at Routine Medical Inspection to Require Treatment (excluding Defects of Nutrition, Uncleanliness and Dental Diseases).

Note.—No individual child is counted more than once in any column of this Table; for example, a child suffering from defective

vision and from adenoids appears once in Column 2, once in Column 3 and once only in Column 4. Similarly a child suffering from two defects other than defective vision appears once only in Column 2 and once in Column 4.

Group. (1)	For defective vision (excluding squint). (2)	For all other conditions recorded in table on p. 8. (3)	Total. (4)
Entrants.....	2	213	214
Second Age Group	102	254	308
Third Age Group	157	183	298
Total (Prescribed Groups)	261	650	820
Other Routine Inspections	149	173	269
Grand Total.....	410	823	1089

NOTES ON TABLES (page 6)

- (a) The return refers to a complete calendar year.
- (b) This heading relates solely to the routine medical inspection of the three ordinary age groups, *i.e.*, to medical inspection carried out
 - (i) in compliance with Article 17 of the Consolidated Regulations relating to Special Services—Grant Regulations No. 19;
 - (ii) on the school premises (or at a place specially sanctioned by the Board);
 - (iii) for the purpose of making a report on each child on the lines of the approved Schedule set out in Circular 582.
- (c) Under this heading is recorded *routine* inspections, if any, of children who do not fall under the three prescribed age-groups, *e.g.*, *routine* inspections of a fourth age-group or of other groups of children, as distinct from those who are individually selected on account of some suspected ill-health for "Special" Inspection.
- (d) A Special Inspection is a medical inspection by the School Medical Officer himself or by one of the Medical Officers on his staff of a child specially selected or referred for such inspection, *i.e.*, not inspected at a routine medical inspection as defined above. Such children may be selected by the Medical Officer during a visit to the School or may be referred to him by the Teachers, School Nurses, Attendance Officers, Parents, or otherwise. It is immaterial for the purpose of this heading whether the children are inspected at the School or at the Inspection Clinic or elsewhere. If a child happens to come before the School Medical Officer for special inspection during a year in which it falls into one of the routine groups, its *routine* inspection is entered in Part A of the table on page 6 headed "Medical Inspection" and its special inspection in Part B. The inspection recorded under the heading of special inspections is only the first inspection of the child so referred for a particular defect. If a child who has been specially inspected for one defect is subsequently specially inspected for another defect, such subsequent inspection is recorded as a Special Inspection and not as a Re-inspection.
- (e) Under this heading is entered the medical inspections of children who as the result of a routine or special inspection come up later on for subsequent re-inspection, whether at the School or at the Inspection Clinic. The first inspection in every case is entered as a routine or special inspection as the case may be. Every subsequent inspection of the same defect is entered as a re-inspection.

Nothing is included under the head of special inspections or re-inspections except such inspections as are defined above. Attendances for treatment by a Nurse, or for examinations by anyone other than a Doctor on the staff of the School Medical Service, are not recorded as medical inspections. If, however, at any such attendance a child is also examined by one of

the Authority's Medical Officers, this is recorded as a special inspection or re-inspection as the case may be, even if treatment is also given; but such attendance is also of course recorded as an attendance for treatment.

RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION

Defect or disease (1)	Routine Inspections		Special Inspections	
	No. of defects		No. of defects	
	Requiring treatment (2)	Requiring under observation, but not requiring treatment (3)	Requiring treatment (4)	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment (5)
<i>Skin</i>				
(1) Ringworm—Scalp	—	—	8	—
(2) " —Body	1	1	17	—
(3) Scabies	8	—	145	—
(4) Impetigo	3	—	144	—
(5) Other diseases (non-tuberculous).....	26	2	190	—
<i>Eye</i>				
(6) Blepharitis	20	11	83	—
(7) Conjunctivitis	7	—	119	—
(8) Keratitis	—	—	2	—
(9) Corneal opacities	—	1	6	—
(10) Other conditions (excluding defective vision and squint)	13	3	102	—
(11) Defective vision (excluding squint)...	410	282	67	3
(12) Squint	57	9	23	—
<i>Ear</i>				
(13) Defective hearing	16	2	35	—
(14) Otitis media	26	5	149	—
(15) Other ear diseases	12	1	43	—
<i>Nose and throat.</i>				
(16) Chronic tonsillitis only	63	70	255	—
(17) Adenoids only	5	3	5	—
(18) Chronic tonsillitis and adenoids	2	3	8	—
(19) Other conditions	81	49	177	—
(20) Enlarged cervical glands (non-tuberculous)	13	32	66	—
(21) Defective speech	5	20	2	—
<i>Heart and circulation</i> ...				
(22) Heart disease—Organic	—	1	3	—
(23) " —Functional	25	119	51	—
(24) Anaemia	64	30	83	1
<i>Lungs</i>				
(25) Bronchitis	13	36	76	—
(26) Other non-tuberculous diseases	15	27	98	—
<i>Tuberculosis</i> (27) Pulmonary—Definite	—	—	1	—
(28) " Suspected	—	2	—	—
(29) Non-pulmonary—Glands	1	1	1	—
(30) " Bones and joints....	—	—	—	—
(31) " Skin	—	—	—	—
(32) " Other forms.....	1	—	—	—
<i>Nervous system</i> ..(33) Epilepsy	—	1	—	—
(34) Chorea.....	1	5	5	—
(35) Other conditions	2	2	1	—
<i>Deformities</i> ....(36) Rickets	—	—	—	—
(37) Spinal curvature	12	12	3	—
(38) Other forms	112	61	48	—
(39) Other defects and diseases (excluding Defects of Nutrition, Uncleanness and Dental Diseases)	241	80	3391	—
TOTAL.....	1255	871	5407	4

**CLASSIFICATION OF THE NUTRITION OF CHILDREN
INSPECTED DURING THE YEAR IN THE
ROUTINE AGE GROUPS**

(see Administrative Memorandum No. 124, dated 31st December, 1934)

Age Groups	Number of Children Inspected	A (Excellent)		B (Normal)		C (Slightly subnormal)		D (Bad)	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Entrants	2275	198	8·70	1921	84·44	154	6·77	2	0·08
Second Age Group	1976	237	12·00	1546	78·24	192	9·71	1	0·05
Third Age Group	1949	195	10·01	1669	85·63	85	4·36	—	—
Other Routine Inspections	1897	247	13·02	1498	78·96	149	7·85	3	0·16
Total.....	8097	877	10·83	6634	81·94	580	7·16	6	0·07

RETURN OF ALL EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN IN THE AREA

The returns are in respect of all exceptional children in the area, and are not confined only to those for whom suitable accommodation is available.

For the purpose of this Table no child is included who has not been examined by the School Medical Officer, by a medical member of the Authority's staff, or by the Tuberculosis Officer.

The table is made up from the list of exceptional children as it stood on the last day of the calendar year.

Children sent by the Authority to day or residential schools outside the area are included in this table; children who are living in residential schools in the area, or attend day schools in the area, but who come from other areas, are not included.

No child is entered under more than one heading in this form

BLIND CHILDREN

A blind child is defined by Section 69 of the Education Act, 1921, as one who is "too blind to be able to read the ordinary school books used by children." This definition covers some children who are totally, or almost totally, blind and can only be appropriately taught in a school for blind children, and others who have partial sight and can be appropriately taught in a school for partially sighted children. Only the first class is included in this section.

At Certified Schools for the Blind	At Public Elementary Schools	At Other Institutions	At no School or Institution	Total
6	—	—	—	6

PARTIALLY SIGHTED CHILDREN

In this section are included only children who, though they cannot read ordinary school books or cannot read them without injury to their eyesight, have such power of vision that they can appropriately be taught in a school for the partially sighted.

Children who are able by means of suitable glasses to read the ordinary school books used by children without fatigue or injury to their vision are not included in this table.

At Certified Schools for the Blind	At Certified Schools for the Partially Sighted	At Public Elementary Schools	At Other Institutions	At no School or Institution	Total
—	24	8	—	1	33

During the year, 2 new cases were added to the register.
9 boys and 15 girls were in attendance at the Sight-Saving Class held at Hemingford Street Council School.

Below is a classification of the defects from which these partially sighted children suffer.

Myopia	5
Myopic astigmatism	14
Corneal nebulae	1
Corneal nebulae and myopic astigmatism	1
Nystagmus	2
Hypermetropic astigmatism and nystagmus	1
Congenital cataract	2
Congenital cataract and nystagmus	1
Coloboma iris and choroid	3
Optic atrophy	1
Congenital aniridia	1
Congenital buphthalmos	1
	—
	33
	—

DEAF CHILDREN

A deaf child is defined by Section 69 of the Education Act, 1921, as one who is "too deaf to be taught in a class of hearing children in an elementary school." This definition covers some children who are totally, or almost totally, deaf and can only be appropriately taught in a school for deaf children, and others who have partial hearing and can be appropriately taught in a school for partially deaf children. Only the first class is included in this section.

At Certified Schools for the Deaf	At Public Elementary Schools	At other Institutions	At no School or Institution	Total
18	3*	—	—	21*

* Certified at end of year.

PARTIALLY DEAF CHILDREN

In this section are included children who can appropriately be taught only in a school for the partially deaf.

At Certified Schools for the Deaf	At Certified Schools for the Partially Deaf	At Public Elementary Schools	At Other Institutions	At no School or Institution	Total
—	—	21	—	—	21

MENTALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN

Mentally defective children are children who, not being imbecile and not being merely dull or backward, are incapable by reason of mental defect of receiving proper benefit from the instruction in the ordinary public elementary schools but are not incapable by reason of that defect of receiving benefit from instruction in special schools for mentally defective children.

The following table includes all such children except those who have been notified to the Local Authority under the Mental Deficiency Act in accordance with Article 3 of the Mental Deficiency (Notification of Children) Regulations, 1928. Particulars relating to these children are entered in the return of notified children (see page 12).

At Certified Schools for Mentally Defective Children	At Public Elementary Schools	At other Institutions	At no School or Institution	Total
100	12	2	7	121

Claughton Road Council School.—In accordance with the arrangements for ascertainment, examinations of children suspected to be mentally defective were held at various schools and clinics during the year by the Assistant Medical Officers.

The results of these examinations are set out below:

Total number examined—Boys	46
Girls	36
	— 82
Number certified as mentally defective—Boys	27
Girls	11
	— 38*

* Eight of these were notified to the local Authority under the Mental Deficiency Acts, and 3 were recommended for residential special schools.

Number recommended to continue in attendance at ordinary elementary schools—Boys	18
Girls	26
	— 44

11 children left the school during the year

(a) on reaching the age of 16 years	4*
(b) before reaching the age of 16 years	7†

* One notified to the Local Authority under the Mental Deficiency Acts.

† Four were granted leave of absence.

A routine physical inspection of scholars attending the school was carried out. 84 children were examined, of whom 2 were found to have defects requiring medical advice, the defects found being scabies and otitis media.

Mental Deficiency (Notification of Children) Regulations, 1928.—

Statement of the number of children notified during the year ended 31st December, 1938, by the Local Education Authority to the Local Mental Deficiency Authority.

Total number of children notified..... 9

Analysis of the above total

Diagnosis	Boys	Girls
1. (i) Children incapable of receiving <i>benefit</i> or <i>further benefit</i> from instruction in a Special School :		
(a) Idiots	—	—
(b) Imbeciles	7	1
(c) Others	—	—
(ii) Children unable to be instructed in a Special School without detriment to the interests of other children :		
(a) Moral defectives.....	—	—
(b) Others	—	—
2. Feeble-minded children notified on leaving a Special School on or before attaining the age of 16	—	1
3. Feeble-minded children notified under Article 3, i.e. "special circumstances" cases	—	—
4. Children who in addition to being mentally defective were blind or deaf	—	—
Total..	7	2

EPILEPTIC CHILDREN

In this part of the table only those children are included who are epileptic within the meaning of the Act, i.e., children who, not being idiots or imbeciles, are unfit by reason of severe epilepsy to attend the ordinary public elementary schools.

(For practical purposes the Board are of opinion that children who are subject to attacks of major epilepsy in school should be recorded as "severe" cases and excluded from ordinary public elementary schools.)

At Certified Special Schools	At Public Elementary Schools	At other Institutions	At no School or Institution	Total
2	—	—	—	2

PHYSICALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN

A.—TUBERCULOUS CHILDREN

Only children diagnosed as tuberculous and requiring treatment for tuberculosis at a sanatorium, a dispensary, or elsewhere are recorded in this category. Children suffering from crippling due to tuberculosis which is regarded as being no longer in need of treatment are recorded as crippled children, provided that the degree of crippling conforms to the description of a crippled child given at the head of Section C below. All other tuberculous children who are regarded as being no longer in need of treatment are recorded as delicate children provided the Medical Officer is prepared to certify under Section 55 of the Education Act, 1921, that they are incapable by reason of physical defect of receiving proper benefit from the instruction in the ordinary Public Elementary Schools.

I.—CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS
(Including pleura and intra-thoracic glands)

At Certified Special Schools	At Public Elementary Schools	At other Institutions	At no School or Institution	Total
4	15	3	1	23

II.—CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS
(This category includes tuberculosis of all sites other than those shown in (I) above)

At Certified Special Schools	At Public Elementary Schools	At other Institutions	At no School or Institution	Total
14	211	—	2	227

B.—DELICATE CHILDREN

This section is confined to children (except those included in other groups) whose general health renders it desirable that they should be specially selected for admission to an Open Air School. Such

children are included irrespective of the actual provision of Open Air Schools in the area, or of the practicability in present circumstances of sending the children to Residential Schools. Children are not regarded as suitable for admission to an Open Air School unless the Medical Officer is prepared to certify under Section 55 of the Education Act, 1921, that they are incapable by reason of physical defect of receiving proper benefit from the instruction in the ordinary Public Elementary Schools.

At Certified Special Schools	At Public Elementary Schools	At other Institutions	At no School or Institution	Total
—	14	—	—	14

C.—CRIPPLED CHILDREN

This section is confined to children (other than those diagnosed as suffering from tuberculosis and in need of treatment for that disease) who are suffering from a degree of crippling sufficiently severe to interfere materially with a child's normal mode of life, i.e., children who generally speaking are unable to take part, in any complete sense, in physical exercises or games or such activities of the school curriculum as gardening or forms of handwork usually engaged in by other children, and in whose case the Medical Officer is prepared to certify under Section 55 of the Education Act, 1921, that they are incapable by reason of such physical defect of receiving proper benefit from the instruction in the ordinary Public Elementary Schools.

At Certified Special Schools	At Public Elementary Schools	At other Institutions	At no School or Institution	Total
—	18	—	3	21

D.—CHILDREN WITH HEART DISEASE

This section is confined to children in whose case the Medical Officer is prepared to certify, under Section 55 of the Education Act, 1921, that they are incapable by reason of such physical defect of receiving proper benefit from the instruction in the ordinary Public Elementary Schools.

At Certified Special Schools	At Public Elementary Schools	At other Institutions	At no School or Institution	Total
—	24	—	12	36

Special Educational Classes.—A total of 39 children, including a number whose heart condition was too severe to permit of their attendance at an ordinary elementary school, attended these classes, which are organised by the Invalid Children's Association.

CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM MULTIPLE DEFECTS

Combination of Defect	At Certified Special Schools	At Public Elementary Schools	At Other Institutions	At no School or Institution	Total
Mental Defect (Feeble-minded) and Crippled	1	—	—	1	2
Mental Defect (Feeble-minded) and Heart	1	—	—	—	1

RETURN OF DEFECTS TREATED DURING THE YEAR(see note *a*)

GROUP I.—MINOR AILMENTS (excluding Uncleanliness, for which see page 23).

Disease or defect (1)	Number of defects treated, or under treatment during the year.		
	Under the Authority's scheme (see note <i>b</i>) (2)	Otherwise (3)	Total (4)
<i>Skin</i> —Ringworm—scalp—			
(i.) X-Ray treatment	—	—	—
(ii.) Other treatment	6	—	6
Ringworm—body	12	—	12
Seabiles	116	1	117
Impetigo.....	132	—	132
Other skin disease	142	6	148
<i>Minor eye defects</i>	264	6	270
(external and other, but excluding cases falling in Group II.)			
<i>Minor ear defects</i>	180	2	182
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	2171	17	2188
(e.g., minor injuries, bruises, sores, chil-blains, &c.)			
Total	3023	32	3055

The number of children who received treatment at the General School Clinic was 2,718; the total attendances numbered 13,110.

During the past year, the Health Nurses paid 1,621 visits to the homes of children with defects in connection with "following up"—1,406 first visits, 215 re-visits.

Of the children examined at routine and special inspections in ordinary schools during the year who were found to be suffering from defects requiring medical or dental attention, 585 received treatment before the end of the year.

GROUP II.—DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT (excluding Minor Eye

Defects treated as Minor Ailments—Group I.)

Defect or disease (1)	Number of defects dealt with		
	Under the Authority's scheme (see note b) (2)	Otherwise (3)	Total (4)
Errors of refraction (including squint)	868	19	887
Other defect or disease of the eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I)	19	1	20
Total.....	887	20	907
<hr/>			
No. of children for whom spectacles were	Under the Authority's Scheme	Otherwise	Total
(a) Prescribed	781	18	799
(b) Obtained	556	18	574

Dr. Williams continued in charge of the Eye Clinic.

Care is taken to secure that, so far as can be judged without any elaborate system of investigation, only those parents who are not in a position to obtain private attention to their children's eyes are allowed to avail themselves of the facilities provided at the clinic.

During the year 588 new cases were examined. Spectacles were prescribed for 332 of these, the remainder being found to be emmetropic or cases for whom spectacles were of no benefit. 690 children attended for re-examination, and 556 pairs of spectacles (new or replaced) were supplied. The total cost of all the spectacles which were ordered during the year (including those ordered for secondary school children) was £145 11s. 1d., of which the parents were required to pay £128 12s. 4d. The total sum collected during the year (including arrears from previous years) was £126 7s. 0d.

21 new cases were examined and 21 re-examinations were carried out by Dr. Charters, the consultant ophthalmic surgeon, at the Birkenhead Municipal Hospital.

The following is a summary of the visual defects of new cases for whom spectacles were prescribed during the year :

First Eye	Second Eye	
Hypermetropia	Hypermetropia	130
Hypermetropia	Hypermetropic astigmatism ...	25
Hypermetropia	Normal	3
Hypermetropic astigmatism	Hypermetropic astigmatism ...	63
Hypermetropic astigmatism	Mixed astigmatism	4
Hypermetropic astigmatism	Normal	7
Myopia	Myopia	59
Myopia	Normal	10
Myopia	Myopic astigmatism	1
Myopic astigmatism	Hypermetropia	2
Myopic astigmatism	Myopic astigmatism	15
Myopic astigmatism	Mixed astigmatism	2
Myopic astigmatism	Normal	3
Mixed astigmatism	Mixed astigmatism	4
Myopic astigmatism	Hypermetropic astigmatism ...	1
Mixed astigmatism	Normal	2
Mixed astigmatism	Hypermetropia	1
		332

The following conditions were also recorded among the new cases who attended the clinic :

Coloboma iris	1
Coloboma iris and choroid	1
Corneal nebulae	14
Nystagmus	1
Keratitis	2
Amblyopia	28

The new cases of strabismus noted during the year were as follows :

Convergent : Right eye 43; left eye 71; alternating 17.

Divergent : Right eye 1.

GROUP III.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF NOSE AND THROAT

Number of defects											
Received operative treatment								Received other forms of treatment	Total number treated		
Under the Authority's scheme in clinic or hospital, (see note b)				By private practitioner or hospital, apart from the Authority's scheme							
(1)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)
26	-	23	-	7	1	-	-	33	1	23	-
										159	216

(i) Tonsils only. (ii) Adenoids only. (iii) Tonsils and adenoids.

(iv) Other defects of the nose and throat.

A total of 362 children referred to Mr. Leathart, the consultant aurist and laryngologist, was examined by him. 164 children, after re-examination, were found to be improved or cured. This total includes those children who received operative treatment during the year.

GROUP IV.—ORTHOPÆDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS (see note c)

	Under the Authority's Scheme (see note b)			Otherwise			Total number treated (see note d)
	Residential treatment with education	Residential treatment without education	Non-resi- dential treatment at an orthopaedic clinic (iii)	Residential treatment with education	Residential treatment without education	Non-resi- dential treatment at an orthopaedic clinic (iii)	
	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	
Number of children treated	4	17	351	—	—	—	372

1. *Examinations carried out at the clinic by the orthopaedic surgeon.*—At the Clinic Dr. Hartley Martin, the orthopaedic surgeon, attended on 33 occasions during the year. The after-care sister made 76 attendances.

296 new cases were dealt with, as compared with 268 in the previous year.

Tuberculous cases	2
Non-tuberculous cases—	
Under school age	94
Of school age	200
	296

There were 836 re-examinations made, as compared with 853 in 1937 :—

Tuberculous cases	43
Non-tuberculous cases—	
Under school age	225
Of school age	540
Over school age	28
	836

The average number of cases seen by the surgeon per session was 34.3.

In the following table Dr. Hartley Martin sets out a classification of cases dealt with, and shows the results of treatment:

Diagnosis	Remaining at end of 1937	1938			Remaining at end of 1938			Discharges 1938					
		New cases			School age			School age			Relieved	Left district	
		Under	Of	Over	Under	Of	Over	Cured	Left	district	Refused treatment	Unsuitable	Died
Infantile Paralysis	31	...	5	...	4	29	...	...	3	:	...	...	...
Spastic Paralysis	22	5	1	...	7	15	...	...	1	...	4	1	...
Rickets	72	11	...	...	25	24	...	15	...	1	17	1	...
Osteitis and Arthritis :													
(a) Tuberculous	24	...	2	1	1	18	1	4	2	1	...	...	...
(b) Non-Tuberculous	4	1	...	...	1	3	...	1	...	...	3	2	...
Congenital Deform.	40	6	8	...	13	27	...	6	3	...	43	3	1
Acquired Deform.	163	48	97	...	65	146	...	38	9	3	105	...	
No Apparent Defects..	20	23	89	...	15	7	...	...	...	5	112	1	
Totals...	376	94	202	1	131	269	1	64	18	5	72		

2. Massage and remedial exercises.—Massage and remedial exercises as prescribed by Dr. Martin were provided by the Invalid Children's Association. (There are two whole-time masseuses on the Association's staff.)

Attendances for massage and remedial exercises were made by clinic cases as follows:

Tuberculous cases	63
Non-tuberculous cases—	
Under school age	379
Of school age	3875
Over school age	71
	4388

In addition to the above, 1,220 attendances were made by non-clinic cases (that is to say, cases sent to the Association by orthopædic surgeons attached to voluntary hospitals, etc.) as follows:

Under school age	56
Of school age	1164
Over school age	—

3. Surgical apparatus—splints, etc.—These are provided by the Association, the number of cases dealt with during the past year being as follows:

	Under School Age	Of School Age	Over School Age
Tuberculous cases—			
Clinic cases	—	6	2
Non-clinic cases	—	7	—
Non-tuberculous cases—			
Clinic cases	56	165	13
Non-clinic cases	19	80	7

4. Milk, tonics, convalescence, after-care.—Most useful work is also done by the Association in providing milk, tonics, etc. for patients for whom these have been prescribed by the orthopædic surgeon and other doctors, and in following up and helping patients who have passed through the stage of active treatment:

	Under School Age	Of School Age	Over School Age
Children supplied with milk—			
Tuberculous cases—			
Clinic cases	2	9	—
Non-clinic cases	—	1	—
Non-tuberculous cases—			
Clinic cases	183	56	—
Non-clinic cases	126	200	—
Children supplied with tonics—			
Tuberculous cases—			
Clinic cases	1	10	—
Non-clinic cases	—	—	—
Non-tuberculous cases—			
Clinic cases	151	72	—
Non-clinic cases	33	28	—

Children sent to Convalescent Homes and Country Hospitals—

Tuberculous cases—	—	2	—
Clinic cases	—	2	—
Non-clinic cases	—	4	—
Non-tuberculous cases—			
Clinic cases	37	139	—
Non-clinic cases	8	53	—

5. Hospital Treatment.—Of the 673 cases that have been on the register of the orthopædic clinic and regarded as suitable for

treatment during the past year, 28 (or 4.2%) required hospital treatment and were admitted to the Birkenhead Municipal Hospital and the Children's Hospital, Leasowe. Of this number, 7, or 25%, were children under school age. The cases comprise :

	Stay in Hospital Cases	Days
Rickets, Bowlegs, Knock-knee	6	983
Congenital deformities	9	794
Acquired deformity	4	102
Infantile paralysis	4	470
Spastic paralysis	2	273
Non-Tb. Arthritis	3	227

The total number of days in hospital was 2,849. Of this number 72.7% was in respect of children of school age, equivalent to 7.8 beds occupied throughout the year.

6. *Birkenhead Orthopaedic Hospital.*—At this institution children suffering from orthopaedic defects of tuberculous origin are treated. Many are cases who have passed through a course of treatment at Leasowe Hospital, or are awaiting admission to that institution.

7. *Treatment by Ultra-Violet Rays.*—Treatment of rickets and other deforming conditions is provided. Fuller details of the work carried out at the Clinics and by the Invalid Children's Association are given below.

GROUP V.—TREATMENT BY ULTRA-VIOLET RAYS.

At the North Health Clinic a total of 70 children of school age made 1,745 attendances during the year :

	Improved	Not Improved	Still under treatment at end of year
Debility	21	11	6
Tuberculosis	5	6	8
Anaemia	7	2	3
Eczema	1	—	—
Asthma	2	—	2
Bronchitis	1	—	1
Other conditions	8	6	12
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	45	25	32
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

At the South Health Clinic a total of 100 children of school age made 1,710 attendances during the year :

	Improved	Not Improved	Still under treatment at end of year
Debility	15	12	7
Tuberculosis	5	1	1
Bronchitis	12	10	5
Anaemia	1	—	—
Urticaria	1	1	—
Other conditions	23	19	10
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	57	43	23
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

At the Invalid Children's Association premises, 41 children of school age made 525 attendances during the year :

	Improved	Not Improved	Still under treatment at end of year
Rickets	—	—	—
Debility	27	10	15
Tuberculosis	4	—	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	31	10	16
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

In addition, 746 attendances were made by children below and above school age.

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT

(1) Number of children who were:—	
(i) Inspected by the Dentist :—	
Routine age groups—	
aged 5	563
aged 6	1570
aged 7	1758
aged 8	1799
aged 9	1809
aged 10	1820
aged 11	1454
aged 12	1719
aged 13	1322
aged 14	187
	14001
(b) Specials (see note e)	—
(c) TOTAL (Routine and Specials)	14001
(2) Number found to require treatment	9884
(3) Number actually treated	9428
(4) Attendances made by children for treatment	11691
(5) Half-days devoted to:—	
Inspection	156
Treatment	1602
	Total — 1758
(6) Fillings (see note f):—	
Permanent Teeth	6526
Temporary Teeth	136
	Total — 6662
(7) Extractions:—	
Permanent Teeth	3653
Temporary Teeth	9308
	Total — 12961
(8) Administrations of general anaesthetic for extractions.....	2293
(9) Other Operations:—	
Permanent Teeth	2495
Temporary Teeth	142
	Total — 2637

Cleanliness of teeth.—The children examined were classified according to cleanliness of teeth as follows :

Clean	7966
Fairly clean	4753
Dirty	1282
	14001

Condition of gums.—The following figures show the condition of the gums of the children examined :

Gums healthy	11637
Gums inflamed	1385
Gums septic	979
	14001

Condition of bite.—This was found to be as set out below :

Bite good	9098
Bite fair	4207
Bite bad	696
	14001

Notices were sent to the parents of the 9,884 children found to require dental treatment, with the following results:—

Refused to have treatment done or did not reply ...	833
Stated that treatment would be obtained privately ...	1304
Requested treatment at the Dental Clinic	7747
	<hr/>
	9884

Of the 7,747 children for whom treatment at the clinic was requested :

5458	were treated before the end of the year
1341	did not attend when sent for
948	were awaiting treatment at the end of the year
<hr/>	7747

The total number of children treated at the clinic during 1938 was :

Following on 1937 inspections	858
Following on 1938 inspections	5458
Brought by parents on their own initiative	3107
From Birkenhead Orthopaedic Hospital	2
From Claughton Road C. School	3
<hr/>	9428

8,711 children completed their treatments during the year.

2,824 parents paid 1s. each and 126 parents 6d. each for treatment for their children, the total amount paid being £144 7s. 0d. 6,727 children were treated free of charge.

UNCLEANLINESS AND VERMINOUS CONDITIONS

(i) Average number of visits per school made during the year by the Health Nurses	19
(ii) Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by Health Nurses	74916
(iii) Number of <i>individual</i> children found unclean (<i>see note g)</i>	2808
(iv) Number of <i>individual</i> children cleansed under Section 87 (2) and (3) of the Education Act, 1921	—
(v) Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken:—	
(a) Under the Education Act, 1921	—
(b) Under the School Attendance Byelaws	—

In 12 cases of persistent neglect notices were served on the parents and in each case the child was satisfactorily cleansed at home.

The Health Nurses paid 65 visits to the homes of children in regard to uncleanliness and verminous conditions (54 first visits, 11 re-visits).

Number of children examined at Routine Medical Inspections in the Schools and number found defective in each School

SCHOOL		CLASSIFICATION OF DEFECTS											
ENTRANCES		SECOND AGE GROUP		THIRD AGE GROUP		FOURTH AGE GROUP		FIFTH AGE GROUP		SIXTH AGE GROUP		SEVENTH AGE GROUP	
		NUMBER OF PUPILS PRESENT	NUMBER OF CHILDREN DEFECTIVE	NUMBER OF PUPILS PRESENT	NUMBER OF CHILDREN DEFECTIVE	NUMBER OF PUPILS PRESENT	NUMBER OF CHILDREN DEFECTIVE	NUMBER OF PUPILS PRESENT	NUMBER OF CHILDREN DEFECTIVE	NUMBER OF PUPILS PRESENT	NUMBER OF CHILDREN DEFECTIVE	NUMBER OF PUPILS PRESENT	NUMBER OF CHILDREN DEFECTIVE
Bidston Avenue	126	81	... 207	184	11	11	1	6	...	1	...	1	1
Brassy Street	59	35	189	183	466	246	44	45	2	23	3	3	11
Catheart Street	85	69	...	154	134	19	20	...	9	...	3	...	45
Cole Street	82	78	...	160	141	16	17	...	2	1	1	1	20
Gauthby Road	58	82	...	140	124	7	7	3	...	4	...	...	17
Laird Street	74	77	...	151	134	12	14	...	5	5	...	2	7
Mersey Park	107	135	...	242	217	53	56	...	1	4	5	8	14
Overchurch	52	14	...	66	55	7	8	2	...	1	...	1	8
Pilgrim Street	79	69	...	148	133	22	29	...	10	2	2	4	3
Rock Ferry	135	100	...	235	183	58	68	16	3	17	3	7	29
The Dell	96	79	...	175	140	19	20	1	...	4	1	...	6
The Woodlands	63	44	...	107	90	17	21	1	3	3	1	3	21
Trinity Street	61	56	...	117	99	19	25	6	1	9	...	2	25
Well Lane	73	88	95	93	349	197	66	73	4	4	20	4	13
Woodchurch Road	160	141	...	301	287	37	40	...	1	4	2	7	40
Park Road Temporary	49	13	...	62	51	12	13	1	...	1	...	1	13
Bidston C. E.	6	10	...	16	12	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	1
Christchurh Caughton	69	64	...	133	116	22	25	4	...	4	6	...	4
Holy Cross	58	79	...	137	121	13	13	3	...	9	8	...	13

Holy Trinity	Our Lady's	Oxton	St. Anne's	St. Anne's R.C.	St. Catherine's	St. James'	St. John's	St. Joseph's	St. Laurence's	St. Luke's	St. Paul's	St. Werburgh's	Tramore H.G.	Upton R.C.	Woodchurch C.E.	Alpha Drive Central	Conway Street Central	Hemingford St. Central	Temple Road Central	Toll-mache Road Central	St. Hugh's Central	Totals ...
	71	76	86	62	295	159	28	30	... 2	22	... 2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	30
Our Lady's																						2
Oxton	10	13	...	23	20	5	6	2	...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	
St. Anne's.....	52	41	...	93	82	13	13	1	...	2	1	4	...	...	1	1	...	1	2	...	13.	
St. Anne's R.C.	99	73	92	86	350	176	82	87	7	1	25	...	9	1	...	14	2	4	...	6	18	87
St. Catherine's.....	47	44	43	27	161	84	42	46	14	2	14	1	3	1	...	1	2	1	...	1	6	46
St. James'	39	37	...	76	59	9	11	4	...	4	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	11
St. John's.....	48	48	...	96	67	15	17	...	...	6	1	...	...	...	...	1	4	...	...	...	5	17
St. Joseph's.....	22	25	...	47	31	13	16	2	...	3	1	4	1	1	...	1	1	...	...	2	1	16
St. Laurence's....	96	100	62	43	301	211	68	73	2	4	30	...	5	1	1	6	5	...	...	4	15	73
St. Luke's.....	56	39	57	64	216	105	46	50	8	1	22	...	6	...	...	2	2	1	...	...	2	6
St. Paul's	33	14	...	47	35	4	4	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	4
St. Werburgh's....	80	62	39	39	226	142	42	51	1	3	10	1	5	...	...	14	8	...	...	...	3	6
Tramore H.G.	36	27	20	24	107	84	17	20	1	...	4	...	5	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	6	2
Upton R.C.	30	12	15	5	62	31	12	12	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	5	...	1	...	...	...	3
Woodchurch C.E.	2	3	11	5	21	6	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	3
Alpha Drive Central .....	...	206	177	383	125	102	114	12	1	31	1	15	...	17	1	3	...	1	...	14	15	114
Conway Street Central .....	...	205	170	375	129	101	114	10	...	52	2	9	...	11	12	...	1	...	5	9	114	
Hemingford St. Central .....	...	186	191	377	177	99	103	10	1	35	1	3	...	1	28	9	...	...	4	11	103	
Temple Road Central .....	...	253	237	490	201	116	124	2	3	51	3	12	...	11	6	...	2	10	21	124		
Toll-mache Road Central .....	...	231	212	443	123	59	62	9	1	19	1	1	...	12	2	1	...	6	10	62		
St. Hugh's Central.....	...	159	177	336	64	72	92	18	2	34	2	10	...	5	4	1	...	1	15	92		
Totals ...	2275	1976	1949	1795	7995	1854	1117	1568	151	37	507	53	151	13	5	164	89	28	...	2	3	241

NOTES ON TABLES (Pages 16-23)

(a) The Table deals with all defects treated during the year, however they were brought to the Authority's notice, *i.e.*, whether by routine inspection, special inspection, or otherwise, during the year in question or previously.

(b) This heading includes all cases that received treatment under definite arrangements or agreements for treatment made by the Local Education Authority and sanctioned by the Board of Education under Section 80 of the Education Act, 1921. Cases which, after being recommended for treatment or advised to obtain it, actually received treatment by private practitioners, or by means of direct application to hospitals, or by the use of hospital tickets supplied by private persons, etc., are entered under other headings.

(c) Postural defects which received non-residential treatment otherwise than at an *orthopaedic* clinic are not recorded in this Table.

(d) A child may be recorded in more than one category and therefore the total number of children treated will not necessarily be the same as the sum of the figures in the separate categories.

(e) The heading "Specials" in this Table relates to all children inspected by the School Dentist otherwise than in the course of the routine inspection of children in one of the age groups covered by the Authority's approved scheme, namely, to children specially selected by him, or referred by Medical Officers, Parents, Teachers, etc., on account of urgency.

(f) Temporary fillings, whether in permanent or temporary teeth, are recorded as other operations.

(g) (i) All cases of uncleanliness, however slight, are recorded.

(ii) The return relates to individual children and not to instances of uncleanliness.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

The powers and duties of local education authorities with regard to medical inspection and treatment in secondary schools and continuation schools are set out in Section 80 of the Education Act, 1921.

Schools at which medical inspection is carried out.—Medical inspection is arranged for at the following schools :

(a) Provided by the Local Education Authority—	No. on Roll
The Birkenhead Institute (Boys)	397
The Girls Secondary School	470
Rock Ferry High School (Boys)	350
Park High School (Boys)	354
(b) Not provided by the Local Education Authority—	
The Higher Tranmere High School for Girls	209
The Convent Secondary School	31½

There are no continuation schools provided by the local education authority.

MEDICAL INSPECTION**A.—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS**

Number of Inspections	2016
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B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS

Number of Special Inspections	17
In schools	—
In clinics	17
Number of Re-Inspections	430
In schools	430
In clinics	—
Total	447
	—

The following schools were inspected, the totals and numbers found defective being shown :

	No. Inspected	No. found * defective
Birkenhead Institute	423	65
Girls' Secondary School	480	94
Rock Ferry High School	355	27
Higher Tranmere High School for Girls...	150	42
Park High School	337	22
Convent F.C.J.	271	15
	2016	265
	—	—

* Excluding those with defective teeth and defects of nutrition.

Included in the total are 295 who were inspected as entrants to these schools.

RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION

Defect or disease	Routine Inspections		Special Inspections	
	No. of Defects		No. of Defects	
	Requiring treatment	Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring treatment	Requiring treatment	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Skin : other diseases (non-tuberculous)	1	—	—	—
Eye : blepharitis	1	7	1	—
conjunctivitis	1	—	—	—
corneal opacities	—	1	—	—
other conditions (excluding defective vision and squint)	1	—	—	—
defective vision (excluding squint)	116	189	—	—
squint	3	2	—	—
Ear : defective hearing	2	1	—	—
otitis media	2	2	1	—
other ear diseases	—	—	1	—
Nose and throat : chronic tonsillitis only	7	47	1	—
other conditions	8	20	2	—
Enlarged cervical glands (non tuberculous)	3	57	1	—
Defective speech	—	3	—	—
Heart and circulation :				
Functional	1	95	—	—
Anaemia	12	8	1	—
Lungs—bronchitis	1	5	1	—
other non-tuberculous diseases	1	26	1	—
Nervous System—chorea	—	—	2	—
other conditions	—	—	1	—
Deformities : spinal curvature	20	12	—	—
other forms	86	134	—	—
Other defects and diseases (excluding defects of nutrition, uncleanliness and dental diseases)	28	15	7	—
Total number of defects	294	624	20	—

RETURN OF DEFECTS TREATED DURING THE YEAR

TREATMENT TABLES

GROUP I.—MINOR AILMENTS

Defect or disease.	Number of defects treated or under treatment during the year, under the Authority's scheme.
Minor eye defects.....	1
Minor ear defect	1
Miscellaneous (e.g. minor injuries, bruises, etc.)	5
Total	7

7 children made 27 attendances for treatment during the year.

GROUP II.—DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT (excluding Minor Eye Defects)

Defect or disease (1)	No. of defects dealt with			
	Under the Authority's scheme (2)	By private practitioner or at hospital, apart from the Authority's scheme (3)	Otherwise (4)	Total (5)
Errors of Refraction (including squint)	79	21	—	100
Total.....	79	21	—	100

Total number of children for whom spectacles were prescribed—

- | | |
|--|----|
| (a) Under the Authority's scheme | 74 |
| (b) Otherwise | 21 |

Total number of children who obtained or received spectacles—

- | | |
|--|----|
| (a) Under the Authority's scheme | 64 |
| (b) Otherwise | 21 |

96 children were submitted to refraction at the Eye Clinic.

The following is a summary of the visual defects of new cases for whom spectacles were prescribed :

First Eye	Second Eye	
Hypermetropia	Hypermetropia	1
Hypermetropic astigmatism	Hypermetropia	2
Hypermetropic astigmatism	Hypermetropic astigmatism	2
Myopia	Myopia	12
Myopia	Normal	1
Mixed astigmatism	Hypermetropia	1
Mixed astigmatism	Normal	1
		—
		20

42 new cases were examined. Spectacles were prescribed for 20 of them, the remainder being found to be emmetropic or cases for whom spectacles were of no benefit. 54 children attended for re-examination.

GROUP III.—ORTHOPAEDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS

	Under the Authority's Scheme non-residential treatment at an orthopaedic clinic.
Number of children treated	43

DENTAL TREATMENT

(1) Treated	249
(2) Attendances made by children for treatment	385
(3) Fillings—Permanent Teeth	450
Temporary Teeth	—
—	450
(4) Extractions—Permanent Teeth	131
Temporary Teeth	44
—	175
(5) Administrations of general anaesthetics for extractions	55
(6) Other Operations—Permanent Teeth	24

MISCELLANEOUS

Children and Young Persons Act, 1933.—15 children summoned to appear before Police Courts were examined in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

Employment of Children Byelaws.—107 children were medically examined as to fitness for work under these byelaws. In 8 cases certificates were not granted.

Provision of Meals.—An average number of 738 children received meals each day, the total number of meals provided during the year being 187,591. Meals were supplied five days per week, with the exception of Bank and Public Holidays.

Past Infectious Diseases.—Enquiry was made at each routine medical inspection as to the infectious diseases from which the children might have suffered.

(1) Children aged 3—7

	No. of Cases	Percentage
No Infectious Disease	388	17.05
Measles	1606	70.60
Whooping Cough	1127	49.23
Scarlet Fever	139	6.11
Diphtheria	126	5.54
Chicken Pox	652	28.66
Mumps	251	11.03

(2) Children aged 8—14

	No. of Cases	Percentage
No Infectious Disease	195	3.60
Measles	5290	90.73
Whooping Cough	3488	61.00
Scarlet Fever	449	7.85
Diphtheria	451	7.90
Chicken Pox	3080	53.85
Mumps	2077	36.31

Note.—The same child may have had more than one of these diseases.

Co-operation of Parents.—Parents attended at the examination of 4,854 (60.88%) of the 7,995 children dealt with at routine inspections.

Group	Parents Present
-------	-----------------

Entrants	87.52%
2nd age group	80.40%
3rd age group	40.94%
4th age group	26.60%

School Camp.—The tenth school camp for children from the schools of Birkenhead was held during the period 25th May to 24th June.

Six hundred children who had been selected as being suitable cases to attend were medically examined. After numerous re-examinations, and treatment for various minor ailments in a number of children by the Health Nurses, 546 children (273 boys and 273 girls) were eventually passed as medically fit, and attended the camp at Dyerth, near Prestatyn.

Two Health Nurses were in attendance at the girls' camp for the purpose of giving first-aid or carrying out any necessary treatment for minor ailments.

Vaccination.—In the ordinary inspections children were examined as to vaccination marks. Of the 7,995 children examined

2806 (35.08%)	showed no marks.
3716 (46.50%)	showed one mark.
424 (5.30%)	showed two marks.
122 (1.52%)	showed three marks.
927 (11.60%)	showed four or more marks.

Height and weight.—Below is set out the average heights and weights (measured without footwear) of children comprising the groups examined during the course of routine inspections, together with the standard deviations:

Group	Height							
	Boys				Girls			
	No.	Ft.	Ins.	S.D. Ins.	No.	Ft.	Ins.	S.D. Ins.
Entrants	1134	3	6·66	2·89	1055	3	6·53	3·00
2nd Age Group	949	4	0·83	2·75	966	4	0·76	2·59
3rd Age Group	957	4	9·67	2·99	951	4	10·36	3·20
4th Age Group	799	4	11·57	3·58	828	5	0·46	2·90

Group	Weight							
	Boys				Girls			
	No.	St.	Lbs.	S.D. Lbs.	No.	St.	Lbs.	S.D. Lbs.
Entrants	1147	3	0·96	5·81	1070	2	13·70	6·20
2nd Age Group	953	3	13·09	6·86	975	3	12·21	6·64
3rd Age Group	960	5	10·50	11·35	962	5	11·34	13·93
4th Age Group	800	6	7·44	14·77	831	6	12·39	15·03

Classes for stammering children.—In addition to the quarterly visits paid to these classes by the Assistant Medical Officers, two examinations were made, covering a total of 83 children, with a view to admission to or withdrawal from these classes.



